

## Alone with God – Nov. 18, 2020

ALONE – “on one’s own” or “having no one else present.”

- Many have a fear, others are uneasy...
  - Turn on TV to fill the silence // *any* choice avoid “spinster”
  - **EX** – child before surgery & reassurance - not alone
- **TRUTH**: we might feel lonely, but we’re never alone.
  - **Joshua 1:9** - NLT - “Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
    - But presence isn’t enough. Crowd – yet alone.
    - We have to commune. Speak-Listen.

**Solitude** is what Jesus sought. We avoid it.

- Solitude is **intimacy** with God, ok with yourself. **Time alone w/God.**
  - **Mr. Rogers’** – “Solitude is different from loneliness; it doesn’t have to be a lonely kind of thing.”
- Every good marriage has it: Time away from kids, just together.
  - **Jesus** withdrew from people, daily activities, work demands to be **alone with the Father** – “Abba” and pray
    - “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” - **Mark 1:35**
  - Source of His compassion, wisdom, and strength
    - It’s how He dealt w/grief.
      - **Matt. 14:13** - “When Jesus heard [that John the Baptist had been beheaded], he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.”
    - It’s how He cared for His soul
      - **Matt. 14:23** - “After [Jesus] had dismissed [the crowds], he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was [still] there alone.”

- It's how Jesus taught His disciples  
**Luke 6:12-13** – “Jesus went out to a mountain side to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him.”  
**Luke 9:18** - “Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, ‘Who do the crowds say I am?’”
- It's how He prepared for the future.  
**Mark 1:12-13** - “... the Spirit brought him into the desert where he was tempted by Satan for 40 days”  
**Mark 14:26** – “When [Jesus and his disciples] had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”  
**Luke 22:39** notes that “Jesus went out as usual to the mount of Olives” to pray

### We can't live or love well w/o following His example

- It's where we find peace in this life.  
**Phil. 4:6-7** - “Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”
- It's where we gain wisdom  
**Col. 2:8** – “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, which are based on human tradition & the spiritual forces of the world rather than on Christ.”  
**James 3:17** – “But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.”

- It's where we obtain strength and ability
  - o "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. - **John 15:4**

▪ **Solitude** ... is where we can hear the voice that matters most.

- Luther Burbank (horticulturist), had a slogan: "Every weed, a potential flower." Jesus' gospel: "Every sinner, a potential saint"
- God knows what is inside us. He believes in us.

**Hebrews 13:5** – "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" - **We aren't alone, but we need to be alone with God.**

Song of the week – "Never Alone" by Tori Kelly