

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:42-44

Sermon Title: The Narrative: Life & Ministry from Presence

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:42-44

⁴³ but he said to them, “I must *preach the good news of the kingdom of God* to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

Luke 4:43

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to *proclaim good news* to the poor.

Luke 4:18

The good news of the kingdom of God is at the center of the life & ministry of Jesus.

And when it was day, *he departed and went into a desolate place*

The pursuit of presence with God is at the center of the life & ministry of Jesus

But he would withdraw to *desolate places*...

Luke 5:16, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, Matthew 14:13, Matthew 14:23, John 6:15 Luke 22:39-46

And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea

Luke 4:44, Acts 3, Acts 4, Acts 9:20, Acts 13, Acts 14, Acts 17:2, Acts 18, Acts 19

Living & ministering from intimacy & identity is the foundational sequence for the life & ministry of God’s children

But he would withdraw to *desolate places and pray*.

Luke 5:16

In the practice of silence & solitude, Jesus is experiencing presence with God through engaging in quiet prayer

“Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10

“Left with me and God what if I discover they’re not much left to just me and God...It means risking facing silence where we’re addicted to noise...It means risking facing a God we’ve mastered talking about, singing about, reading about, and learning about. It’s risking interacting

with Him. The longer we've gotten used to settling for the noise around God, The higher the stakes..."

Tyler Staton. Praying like monks. Living like fools

In the practice of silence & solitude, God calls us to remember

Prayer is the place where our memory is restored

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name
Matthew 6:9

We remember who God is

We remember who we are

We remember who we are to each other

Sin is a refused relationship with God that spills over into a wrong relationship with others.
-Eugene Peterson

In the practice of silence & solitude, God calls us to relinquish

"Be still, and know that I am God.

Prayer is taking a break from cosplaying as God

Being with Jesus is not only a recognition of dependence, it's a reflection of devotion

In the practice of silence & solitude, God causes us to be renewed

Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.
Luke 4:40

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place

In the practice of silence & solitude, God causes us to be refueled

And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself.

But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:13-14

We are filled to be emptied

God intends for His people to be guarded & generous with their time

⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

God intends for His people to be guarded & generous with the good news

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Romans 10:15

Our spiritual practices are check engine lights for the soul & windows into our beliefs

Is the spiritual practice of silence & solitude not on your radar, an aspirational practice, or a consistent practice?

You don't rise to the level of your goals you fall to the level of your systems

-James Clear. Atomic Habits

Commit to making the foundation of Jesus' life & ministry the foundation of yours as well

Be with Jesus

Start with 2 minutes of quiet prayer at intentional time, in an intentional place, & keep building