



Sermon-Based GC Discussion Questions

2/8/2026

Title of Sermon: *Silent in the Lord's Presence*

Main Point of Sermon: A life of pursuing God's presence requires intentional silence and solitude, following the example of Jesus, so that we can truly hear His voice and be strengthened by Him.

Launching Question:

- What's one thing you used to do when you were bored before smartphones existed? and do you miss it?
- When you do get a moment of silence, what's the first thing your mind usually does—rest, wander, worry, or something else?

Primary Scripture: Mark 1:34-35, Mark 6:30-32

(Additional supporting texts: Mark 1:12, Luke 5:15-16, Mark 6:45-46, Luke 22:39)

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think modern noise—digital, emotional, or internal—makes it so difficult to hear God?
- What patterns do we see in Jesus' repeated withdrawals to the eremos in passages like Mark 1:35, Mark 6:31, and Luke 5:16?
- What does Jesus' rhythm of engagement (ministry) and withdrawal (solitude) reveal about His dependence on the Father?
- How does the sermon challenge the assumption that Jesus' time in the wilderness was a moment of weakness rather than spiritual strength?
- According to verses like Habakkuk 2:20 and Zephaniah 1:7, why is silence before the Lord different from ordinary quiet? What does it mean to be silent "before the Lord"?

Application Questions:

- What specific forms of "noise" most commonly distract you—digital, emotional, mental, or relational?
- How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with silence, and why do you think that is?
- What is one small change you can make this week to create intentional space for silence before God?
- Where could your "eremos" be—a place or rhythm where you withdraw to meet with God?
- When life gets busy or overwhelming, what do you typically do first—and how does that compare to how Jesus responded to pressure?



- How could practicing silence and solitude change the way you parent, lead, work, or relate to others?

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for Night to Shine this Friday night!
- Ask God to quiet your soul and free you from the internal and external noise that keeps you from hearing Him.
- Pray for the desire and discipline to withdraw regularly—like Jesus did—to meet with the Father in the quiet.