



finding peace in
solitude

Eight Examples of Jesus Spending Time in Solitude

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16 (NIV)

1. GOING TO THE WILDERNESS AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS MINISTRY

Matthew 4:1-11 (esp. vv. 1-2)

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry..."

2. EARLY MORNING PRAYERS

Mark 1:35

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.

Luke 4:42

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.

3. CALLING THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Luke 6:12-13

12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. 13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles...

4. FEEDING THE 5,000

Matthew 14:13-14 (After John the Baptist's Death)

13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Mark 6:30-32

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

John 6:15

15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

5. WALKING ON WATER

Matthew 14:22-23

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

Mark 6:45-46

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

6. AFTER HEALING A MAN WITH LEPROSY

Mark 1:43-45

43 Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: 44 “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” 45 Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Luke 5:15-16

15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

7. ALONE WITH HIS DISCIPLES

Mark 4:10-11

10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables

Matthew 17:1

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

8. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Luke 22:39-41

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed...

BONUS VERSE: GOD IS WITH US IN OUR SOLITUDE

John 16:31-32

31 “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. 32 “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. **Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.**”