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Sermon Outline

Spring Cleaning: Uncluttering Your Soul

The Secret Place

Mark 1:32-39

April 15-16, 2018 Matt Murphy

Time alone with God...

grounds our being.

loosens our grip.

deepens our soul.

Looking Back

Spring Cleaning: Uncluttering Your Soul The Secret Place

Mark 1:32-39

We will live in a world marked by busyness and chaos. And it's deeper than our external circumstances; if we're honest, our inner life feels chaotic at times as well. What can possibly help give us a "quiet center" (Henri Nouwen's term) in the midst of a chaotic world? Jesus helps us here. His teaching and His example shows us a practice that can help cultivate such a place. Though it's not easy, following Jesus' example here can help us cultivate a deep, transformative relationship with God in the midst of our often-cluttered lives.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree, consider/contemplate)

Silence and solitude are the two most difficult disciplines for the Western Church.
~Dallas Willard

Solitude provides a shelter from noise and distraction, and that can be scary. We have become almost addicted to both. ~John Ortberg

Without silence and solitude, it's virtually impossible to grow in the Christian life.
~Henri Nouwen

Working It Out

1. Read Mark 1:32-39. What stands out most to you?
2. Have you ever spent extended time alone with God? What was that experience like for you?
3. Of the three "benefits" to time alone with God that Matt talked about (grounds our identity, deepens our soul, loosens our grip), which do you most desire right now and why?
4. What would it look like for you *personally* to take a step toward having more time alone with God? What obstacles do you foresee encountering?

Looking Ahead

Spring Cleaning: Uncluttering Your Soul Regaining Purpose

Mark 12:28-34

Who am I? Why am I here? What am I doing? Why am I here? Where am I going? Our most pressing questions rising from the pace and demands of life push questions like these down to the recesses of our soul, but these primary concerns never disappear. They linger and find ways to present themselves to us repeatedly in different form. Jesus faced enemies who tried to trap him with their most pressing questions, but in his response he addressed the primary questions of our existence.

1. Read Mark 12:28-34. What observations can you make about this passage...what is it saying about who God is and what is it saying about who we are?
2. Now read the entire chapter of Mark 12, noticing the individual sections and the central truth behind each individual section (v. 1-12, 13-17, 18-27, 28-34, 35-37, 38-44).
3. I would argue that verses 28-34 form the center point of Mark 12. How do each of the stories or sections in this chapter relate to verses 28-34?