

A QUIET PLACE

JOHN 18:2

Text: John 18:2

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² And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

Introduction:

In your busy life do you have a quiet time and quiet place where consistently day by day you can spend time in prayer?

As we have read here this was a place where the Lord often resorted to.

On the evening before His crucifixion, the Lord was with His disciples. They observed the Passover together and then made their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Judas had already arranged his betrayal of the Lord and now made his way through the streets of Jerusalem, with the Roman soldiers.

It's worth noting that Judas didn't lead the soldiers on some wild chase through the streets of Jerusalem.

Judas knew where the Lord could be found, because the Lord often met there with His disciples for prayer.

Consistency is found at the heart of effective prayer. Great people of prayer are known for their maintenance in their prayer life than for their method of praying.

Consider what we will experience if we like the Lord will establish a quiet place in our lives where we can regularly spend quiet times with our Heavenly Father.

1. COMMUNION

Prayer above all is communion with God.

Note Mark's account of this night.

Mark 14:32-36

³² And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. ³³ And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; ³⁴ And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. ³⁵ And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, Abba, Father, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Note the words the Savior used.

Abba was the less formal name for Father. It would today mean “Daddy.”

This type of communion can only be developed through a consistent prayer life.

Two things are worth noting here.

A. It is foolish to seek counsel from people who do not themselves seek counsel from God.

People often divide their lives into the secular and spiritual, but God makes no such division.

Our entire life is to be a spiritual offering to Him.

B. It is equally important that we counsel others only after we have sought the counsel of the Lord.

Too often we respond to peoples questions carelessly, with little thought or prayer. We often tell them what we would do about the situation.

Quiet places where we spend quiet times will be places and times of intimate communion with God.

2. CONFLICT

Conflict is inescapable, but some handle it better than others.

Who are these individuals? It's those who find strength for their conflicts in quiet time of Bible reading and prayer.

Some believe the greatest struggle surrounding Christ's crucifixion took place in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Note Luke's account of the physical struggle our Savior endured:

Luke 22:39-44

³⁹ And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. ⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, ⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. ⁴³ And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Several illustrations could be mentioned but note a couple:

Matthew 8:23-27

²³ And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. ²⁵ And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. ²⁶ And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. ²⁷ But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

In contrast to all the confusion that would soon be taking place when we would be betrayed, tried, mocked, beaten, and crucified, the Lord exhibited an unusual calm and self-control, so much so that it caused Pilate to marvel.

Luke 22:47-51

⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss? ⁴⁹ When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? ⁵⁰ And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Matthew 27:11-14

¹¹ And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. ¹² And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³ Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? ¹⁴ And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Mark 15:2-5

² And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest *it*. ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. ⁴ And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. ⁵ But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

Conformity to Christ can best occur during our quiet times with Him.

3. Character and Contribution

Throughout the Bible certain individuals stand out because of their exceptional influence and effectiveness.

We're so impressed with their public lives that we often overlook the reasons that they have impressed us.

The longer I live the more convinced I become that the greatest work of God takes place in the private arena – the quiet place, the quiet time.

There God waits for us in order to have sweet communion, resolve conflict and bring about conformity to His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Close:

The brilliant light of a Roman candle streaks across the sky, causing a reaction by the onlooker, but it quickly disappears and is soon forgotten, with no lasting impact.

Will we settle for the applause of one great moment or will we seek the lasting influence that only comes when one is willing to develop the discipline of a quiet time and a quiet place – to regularly and consistently take time to sit at our Savior’s feet and learn of Him?

Do you have regular times of communion with God seeking His counsel and instruction?

When times of conflict come, do you generally turn to the Lord in prayer, or do you try to tough it out or figure it out on your own?