

## **Solitary Thoughts** **Mark 1:35-45**

### 0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Each of us has public & private sides: daily life vs. inner dialogue and space
- 0.2 Are you an extrovert, introvert, or ambivert? Healthy people allow for both
- 0.3 Jesus' own private and public life present some gems

### 1.0 A Solitary Location

- 1.1 Sometimes Jesus deliberately isolated himself (vv.35-36)
- 1.2 Only three occasions of Jesus' praying in Mark (1:35; 6:46; 14:32-42)
- 1.3 Pushback against 'tyranny of the urgent' (v.37) – calling vs. performance
- 1.4 Pertinent insight from Richard Foster (*Celebration of Discipline*)

### 2.0 A Solitary Purpose

- 2.1 Jesus' solitude supported his purpose in the incarnation. What was that?
- 2.2 His stated purpose – vv.38-39 – and to “give his life” (Mk.10:45)
- 2.3 A “ransom” for many – yet with temporary emphasis on Jews (Matt.10:6)
- 2.4 What kinds of things might distract people from their purposes?

### 3.0 A Solitary Expectation

- 3.1 Among healings, that of man with leprosy (vv.40-42)
- 3.2 Not Hansen's Bacillus but some other chronic contagion (Lev.13-14)
- 3.3 A polite request (v.40b) followed by anger (at what?) and stern command (vv.41,43)
- 3.4 Two directives (vv.43-44): present self to priest (e.g. Lev.13:30) and offer sacrifice, and *don't* publicize what has just taken place
- 3.5 Impediments (v.45) to ministry: fame & clamor (v.45)

### 4.0 Importance of This for Us Today

- 4.1 Encouraging time with God: from Lk.11:9 to I Thess.5:17 to Col.4:2-4...
- 4.2 On prayer: “The self-sufficient do not pray; the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. No one is greater than his prayer life.” (Leonard Ravenhill)
- 4.3 Hunger for God promotes loving on people

*Next week (Oct.2) – Complaint & Compassion - Mark 2:1-17*