

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERMON – Have You Any Time for God? Part 1
Topic: The Precedent and the Purpose
Scripture Text: Mark 1:32-35
Updated 11/18/2020

Here is part of a poem that has stuck with me over many years, since 1974.

Here's a part of a poem by Ralph Cushman: "I met God in the morning when the day was at its best, and his presence came like sunrise, Like a glory in my breast. All day long, his presence lingered, all day long, He stayed with me, and we sailed in perfect calmness over a very troubled sea. Other ships were blown and battered, other ships were sore distressed, but the winds that seemed to drive them brought to me peace and rest. So, I think I know the secret, learned from many a troubled way: you must seek Him in the morning if you want Him through the day."

Focus Passage: Mark 1:32–35 (NKJV) ³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. ³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Definition - Quiet Time. Definition: A quiet time is a brief part of your day that you set aside to be **alone** with God. It is a time of mixing **scripture, prayer and meditation**. It is a time for **inspiration and fellowship** rather than serious Bible Study.

I plan to cover the:

Precedent, Purpose, Practice, Place and the Profitability of having a consistent quiet time.

The Precedent:

In our focus passage it tell of Jesus going to a solitary place to pray. To have a quiet time with God **V³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.**

But Jesus is not the only one or the first one recorded in the Bible to have consistent time with God in prayer. To name a few, there was:

There was Job.

*Job 1:4-5 Job 1:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, **and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all.** For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.*

Then there is another example in the Old testament:

There was Daniel:

*Daniel 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, **he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.***

Then there was David, a man after God's own heart.

Ps 5:3 Psalm 5:3 (NKJV) ³ My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.

The precedent was set.

I have personally found that the best time for me is the first thing in the morning before the cares and troubles of the day consume my time.

It is too easy to say that we cannot find the time because we are too busy. Let me be as delicate as I can when I say that if you do not have any time for God then YOU ARE TO BUSY!!!

Are any of us busier than Jesus was? The whole town came to His door.

^{v32} At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons;

Jesus was busy doing the will of God, what could be more important than that. Yet with all the demands made on him, He found time to be alone with God. How would you compare your work to that which Jesus was doing? This passage of scripture says that He rose early the next morning while it was still dark to go and pray. He has set the precedent for setting aside time to be with God for us.

Busy doing the work of ministry does not replace the need for a quiet time with God.

We exhort one another with phrases like, "try harder you can do it", where there is a will there is a way, if you want it bad enough you can do it." But when it comes to spending time alone with God, we use such phrases as, "I had a hard day and I am so tired, God understands", "I really wanted to read my Bible today but the day got away from me, God understands and He knows my heart." Or the Flip Wilson excuse, "the devil made me not do it." How about this one, "I went to church, or Bible Study that's enough. In the mornings I have to get the kids ready for school and myself ready for work, there just isn't enough time. God understands."

Let me assure you that God and Jesus do understand.

God does understand. He understands that it is He that gives us the time and strength to do all these important things. It is He that gave you those children. It is He that gives you that job you are rushing off to. It is He that gives you the strength to do all this and we barely take the time to meet with Him and say thank you.

When you need something from God and Jesus, we find time to ask.

When big trouble comes into our life, we find time to ask for help.

God understands that we always want something from Him but are hesitant to give to Him.

Now for those that think that going to church on Sunday is enough that is not a good answer. How would we even survive if God only blessed us on Sundays.

We come now to the:

Purpose:

1. **First, we need it.** We are so used to not having a Quiet Time that we don't see the value of it in our lives.

2. **We need it for Fellowship** 1Jn 1:3

1 John 1:3 (NKJV) ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

I think fellowship is big with God. He made man for fellowship. He sent His only Son to die in our stead that we may have the right to eternal fellowship with Him. Knowing that, why can't we give back to Him just a part of the time He has given us? Why can't we act like we value that fellowship time with Him?

3. Next, God desires it.

John 4:23 (NKJV) ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

4. Considering all that God has already done, what more can He do? Why God does it I do not know. I always go back to the verse that says:
5. Hebrews 2:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: “*What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?*” ⁷ *You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.* ⁸ *You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*”
6. From the beginning God has desired to fellowship with man. It was God that made us in His image. God has always provided a way for man to be reconciled to Him. He provided a way through the sacrifice of animals. Then He offered the perfect sacrifice, it was His son who died for the sin of the world. When that sacrifice was made there was no longer a need for any more sacrifices. Through Jesus we become children of God, to spend eternity with the Father. Can we not find the time to spend with Him while we are here on earth? If that by itself not enough to want to have fellowship with Him beyond just Sundays
- 7. We need it for nourishment.**
8. When a baby wakes in the morning, what is the first thing he/she wants, milk!
9. We as Gods children should desire the sincere milk of the word and grow up spiritual to eat meat.
10. *1 Peter 2:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*
11. Our physical bodies will not survive long if we only ate two or three times a week, so we feed ourselves every day. We should feed ourselves spiritual food every day for our spiritual growth.
- 12. God provided reconciliation**
13. Other religions - Other religions are looking for a way to get to their God. Our God is so awesome that He desires to fellowship with us so much that He has come to where we are.
14. He Woke us up, how can we not serve Him.

The secret to being able to get up 15 minutes earlier to spend time with God reading the scriptures and I prayer, is for you to go to bed 15 minutes earlier.

Message Scriptures:

END
