

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERMON – Have you any time for God? Part 3
Topic: The Practice the Place and the Profitability
Scripture Text: Mark 1:32-35
Updated 11/18/2020

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.

How to Practice Quiet Time (Continued)

1. Come to your quiet time with Anticipation

- Come to meet with God expecting a blessing. Start you Quiet time off with prayer asking God to open up your understanding of the Scripture.
- Read a small portion of scripture and mediate on it allowing God to speak to you through His word. Take time to write down what He shows you. (Like John in Revelation and Daniel).
- Take time to write it down - The Holy Spirit will reveal some Pearls to you during your quiet times, I greatly value those pearls and write them down. I don't write a book but when I am finished with a chapter which can take up to two weeks or more, then I do have at least a couple pages.
- Close by praying scripturally, thanking God for illumination He has given you and tell Him how it applies to your life.

2. Don't be familiar with God.

We are becoming too familiar with God and the things related to God. God is Holy; all that is associated with God is Holy. The place we worship, the instruments used in our worship, like the communion articles and others, are Holy. God is no less Holy now than He was in the Old Testament. If we go to our meeting place to be with God, the presence of God makes that place a Holy place. There is nothing common about God. With God everything is Holy. He is to be treated with the upmost reverence.

Exod: 3:4-5 4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." 5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (NIV)

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

3. Take time for Meditation - To reflect, contemplate

This is Vital. It is a time for us to listen for God to speak to us. I am not talking about entering into some sort of transcendental meditation, but for us to take some time to be still and quiet in His presence.

Meditation in quiet time with God involves meditating on what you have read. Meditating on the greatness and holiness of God. Meditating on Gods blessings to you and your family. We don't meditate because we are in such a hurry all the time. If we take our time, meditation can become the best part of your quiet time. A period of mediation is often the time that God will speak to your spirit.

1. The Place

Where is the best place to have your Quiet Time?

Pick a room where you can be alone. Let it be known to your family that this is a place where you go to read your Bible and pray. The rest of the family will respect your wish to be alone. If it is early in the morning you do not have to worry about too many interruptions, most of the family will be asleep.

I have been in the living room, the kitchen, the bedroom, mostly in my office but never in the bath room where the commode is.

For those of you who have large bathrooms and don't think that would be a problem, I ask you to read and study the following passage.

Deuteronomy 23:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² "Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out; ¹³ and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse. ¹⁴ For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, **that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.**

We have covered Precedent, Purpose, Practice, Place and now **the Profitability.**

1. **Profitability:** - The degree to which a business or **activity yields** profit or financial **gain**.
 - What can you expect after having consistent quiet times? What profit is there in it? You will profit from a consistent quiet time with the Lord because it will make all the difference your life. It will draw you closer to our heavenly Father. You will be learning more of His character and you will be learning how to effectively listen to Him.
 - **It is Exciting** – How much more excitement is there than to be granted into a private meeting with the one and only God of all Gods. As a side benefit you will begin to see a clear picture of yourself. *Hebrews 10:19 (ESV)* ¹⁹ *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,*
 - **It is very Intimate** – Just think the meeting is just between you and God. No intermediate but Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He is ready to listen without interruption. He will give us as much time as we need. Praise God, what a special privilege. *James 4:8 (NKJV)* ⁸ *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*
 - **Makes a difference in your life** – I have personally found that it better prepares me for the rest of the day. Knowing that I will meet God the next morning helps me to be careful what I do during the day. I don't want to meet God with sin in my heart or on my shoulders.
 - **It gives us a Resource of strength** – Knowing that we have a daily relationship with God gives us confidence throughout the day no matter the trouble.
 - **God can use you** - Meeting with God will allow Him to use us often as a blessing to others. God uses His children to bless others of His children. Jesus wants us to go and make disciples. We cannot go unless we know.

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

- **It gives us a stronger prayer life** – With an active prayer and praise list we can see the prayers God has answered and remember to thank Him. So often we pray for something and God answers in His own time and we may have forgotten what we asked for and fail to thank Him. Answered prayer gives us courage and confidence to pray more believing that God will hear and answer again.
- **Your prayer life will become more dynamic and powerful** because you will begin to pray more for His will than for your own and more for others than for yourself. The motives of your prayers will be more like He wants them to be. For every prayer He answers your faith will grow more and more.
- **Benefit for Preachers** - you will always have a message to share. I have often found that my recent Quiet Times have been a resource to share or even to give an encouraging word to others. Studying for a sermon is not a substitute for a Quiet Time.

What if you miss a day? **DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED!** Do not decide that your QUIET TIME was a bad idea. Discipleship, which quiet time is a significant part of, is **a way of life**. Strive to be **steady** and **dependable**. If you drop the ball, simply pick it up and continue on.

If you miss a day, start again. It is very likely you will, as I have, miss a day. I try not to let that become a habit. I tell myself that God is keeping the appointment on His part and if I do not go, I left Him waiting. The habit of missing gives Satan an opportunity to make you feel guilty. If you miss, just start again.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, what a mighty God we have who will meet with us. Make your appointment and keep it. God and Christ will be there because they desire it.

If you are too busy to spend time with God then you are **TOO** busy!!!

Message Scripture: **Mark 1:32-35**, *Deuteronomy 23:12–14*, *Exod: 3:4-5*, *Proverbs 9:10*, *Ps 46:10*, *Hebrews 10:19*, *James 4:8*, *Matthew 28:19–20*.

END