

Mosaic Teaching Guide

3rd Sunday in Lent, 7 March 2010

Teaching Series: *The Lenten Way*

Teaching: *Solitude—The Way of Silence*

Psalm 46.10,11 “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Mark 1.32-37 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.”

James 1.26,27 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Question: On vacation would you rather go to a secluded beach to soak in the sun and read all you want or go to a resort that has non-stop activities for the entire family?

The Wilderness of Solitude and Silence

The wilderness of solitude and silence is the place that Jesus’ baptismal identity will be put to the test.

The Lenten Way

The Lenten season is a 40 day period of preparation. Isolation and solitude are very different things.

Life Moves Fast, Don’t Miss A Thing

We live in an age of hyper connectivity.

Disconnecting through the disciplines solitude and silence may be more difficult and more important than it has ever been in the history of the Christian story.

From Loneliness to Solitude

I'm suggesting that you do everything you can to slow down the pace of your.

Solitude, the Furnace of Transformation

In the midst of long days of intense ministry, Jesus always seemed to be slipping away to a quiet place to be alone with God.

Henri Nouwen called solitude the *furnace of transformation*.

In solitude we are invited to pray the prayers we have learned in community.

“The fruit of solitude is increased sensitivity and compassion for others”
(Richard Foster).

“It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my brothers” (Thomas Merton).

Fasting Words

“...The more I see of it, the more I realize the absolute primacy and necessity of silent, hidden, poor, apparently fruitless prayer....”

Thomas Merton