

Lent Day 20: Drawing closer to the Father

By: James Yang

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:38-44

³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

⁴⁰ At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

⁴² At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

We are currently living in the era of social media, and the deadliest disease of our time is not viral or bacterial—though in nature it is similar. The greatest disease today is narcissism, accompanied by a rapid and voracious decline in mental health. We live in a society oversaturated with media and shaped by a “look at me” culture that has not only taken over North America, but the entire world—even places that are economically destitute.

However, technology and social media are merely amplifiers of tendencies that already existed within us. In a “look at me” world, there is an audacious perspective that God somehow needs to prove Himself—either through intervention or miracle. Many generations have asked this question to some degree, but when information, data, and agenda-driven content are constantly fed into our mental diets, we often forget who we are speaking to when we demand that God show Himself to us.

The way of Jesus, however, was never about drawing attention to Himself. Though crowds gathered around Him, He regularly withdrew. He sought solitary places not because He was merely exhausted by the people who sought every moment of His day they could squeeze out, but most importantly because He desired to maintain communion with His heavenly Father.

Being a Christian is not something we wear on our sleeves and parade before others as a display of righteousness, nor is it something we should be ashamed of. Rather, there is a humility and quietness to our faith—one that does not need to feel compelled to answer every question, confront every opposition, or pretend to have complete knowledge of Scripture.

We are called to live as Jesus lived: to love our neighbors as He did, to share in His grace, and to participate in His ministry in the world. At the same time, we are called to live quietly and

humbly—not because we are timid or fearful, but because our faith does not depend nor rely on the validation of others to be real or authentic. What matters is that our eyes and hearts remain fixed on Christ, to walk with Him in intimate relationship just as Christ withdrew toward His heavenly Father. From that relationship flows the work that the Spirit calls us to produce and the witness we are called to share with our neighbours.