

SILENCE AND SOLITUDE
I'm Dreaming of an Unhurried Christmas #2
December 3, 2023

Big Idea: You hear God best when you get _____ and _____.

HOW CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS HEARD FROM GOD

1. Zechariah: Luke 1:5-25
2. Mary: Luke 1:26-38
3. Joseph: Matthew 1:20; 2:13,19,22
4. Wise Men: Matthew 2:12
5. Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20

HOW JESUS BENEFITED FROM SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

1. He gained strength to face _____. (Matthew 4:1-2)
2. He gained discernment about when to say _____ and _____. (Mark 1:32-39)
3. He gained wisdom to make _____. (Luke 6:12-13)
4. He found rest from _____. (Matthew 14:13-23)

HOW TO CREATE A HABIT OF SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

1. Start _____.
2. Pick a consistent _____ and _____.
3. Layer it with an _____ habit.
4. Make it _____.
5. Follow a _____.
6. Trust God with the _____.

DAILY REFLECTIONS ON SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

Monday

Read Psalm 5. What do you learn here about David's daily habit with God? When was it? What did it consist of? Notice his faith-filled anticipation that God would answer his prayers (v. 3, 12). God wants to communicate with you too. Pour your heart out to Him today.

Tuesday

Read 1 Samuel 23. How did David gain clarity for major decisions? As we read yesterday in Psalm 5:3, coming to God in prayer was a daily habit for David. When confronted with difficult choices he was accustomed to getting alone with God to pray and listen for answers. Present your problems to God and keep praying daily until you get answers.

Wednesday

When Moses died, God called Joshua to take his place. Read Joshua 1. In a time of silence and solitude God gave clear instructions to His new leader. Three times God said, "Be strong and courageous" (v. 6,7,9). What promise did God make when he said it? What daily habit would make Joshua successful (v. 8)? You will be strong, courageous, and successful when you practice this habit.

Thursday

What did Jesus do when He wanted to reveal His glory to Peter, James and John? Read Matthew 17:1-13. God reveals His power and glory to His followers when we get alone and quiet with Him. Reflect on the goodness and greatness of God today and praise Him for it. Thank Him for adopting you into His family (Rom. 8:12-17).

Friday

Read Luke 5:12-16. As Jesus popularity grew, crowds of people clamored for His attention, healing, and teaching. Rather than rushing to do more and more, "he would withdraw to desolate places and pray." This practice is key to finding the "rest" He promises you (Matt. 11:28-30). Do whatever it takes to make coming to Christ a daily habit and you will find the rest of Jesus.