

TIMES OF WITHDRAWAL



The disciple is not above the Master. Upon the disciples' jubilant return from the active ministry, Jesus' directive for preserving their humanness and for centering in their self-awareness was, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place" (Mark 6:31-32).

It is important to keep these times of withdrawal in the context and rhythm of Jesus' very active and busy life. Such moments of prayer are always oriented to his active life and presence in the world. The major decisions of his life (for example, the selection of the twelve men who would enter the intimate circle of his friendship and share in his mission) were always preceded by a night alone on the mountaintop. . . .

One cannot but think of the number of wrong marriages, wrong employments, wrong personal relationships, and all the concomitant suffering that would be avoided if Christians submitted their decision-making processes to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and shared in his intimate trust of the Father's Will.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

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