

'THE REST OF THE STORY'
(Rightly dividing the Word of truth about 'quiet times')
Application of the Life of Christ to Our Lives Today

'Shhhhh!'

I'm pretty sure that word isn't in the dictionary, but I'm very sure it should be in your vocabulary. Although it's still the *law of the library*, it needs to be declared and enforced in the life of every born-again Christian. The head librarian of our soul, the Holy Spirit, insists that we **'Be Quiet!'** in our lives during the day if we truly want to know God, enjoy your relationship with Him, and get His guidance for successful Christian living. The busier your life, the more urgently you need *Quiet Time* with the Lord to start and close the day, with a few other **'Shhhhhh! Stops'** in between.

To make the Lord part of all you do throughout your waking hours, you simply must follow the Lord Jesus' example in giving Him your undivided attention for a few minutes every single day. Only if you do this will the Savior be a real presence in your daily life, Whom you sense silently, clearly steering all your thoughts, feelings, and decisions in every situation. Failure to maintain meaningful *Quiet Times* every day keeps you feeling that your relationship to the Lord is like a long distance, impersonal 'acquaintance' relationship.

After vital early morning *Q.T.* with the Father, Jesus sensed the Father's fullness and guidance in all He did throughout the day (*John 5:19*). And since Christ had begun the day in a *Q.T.* spiritual zone, what He said and thought and felt during the day was in perfect accord with the Holy Spirit; this is the way He wants us to live also (*John 14:25-27, 15:26-27, 16:13-15*).

When disciples of Christ are anxious or discouraged or just plain worn out tired, it's time for some *Q.T.* with the Lord. We need it to start and end the day no matter what, but when life starts to get to us, we need to escape to some *solitary* (*Mark 1:35*) or *deserted* (*Luke 4:42*) place where we can get quiet inside our mind and heart and where it's as quiet as possible around us for a few minutes with God (*Lamentations 3:25-26*). It may be a spare room in your house where no one else is, or a solitary place in the yard outside; maybe it has to be in your car with no noise except the air conditioner for a few minutes, or even the rest room at work or school may have to do for a get away from it all for a minute or two, or three.

Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles and numerous other sons and daughters said she had to sit down, throw her apron over her head for a *spiritual break* in her busy house – she said her kids knew that when they saw her like that, they were to know she was talking with God and they had better keep quiet as long as that apron was over her head. You have to figure out where those *Q.T.* places are and be wise enough to get into one when the pressures and stresses are building up inside (*see Daniel's good example – Daniel 6:10*).

Getting to that **'Quiet Place'** for a few minutes of **'Quiet Time'** is the best way to let God, the Holy Librarian of your soul, tell your problems and worries and your disappointments and feelings of failure **'Shhhhhhhh!'**. Sometimes you need to pray; sometimes you need to praise; sometimes you need to ask for guidance, forgiveness, or express concern for another... Sometimes you don't need to talk at all, you just need to **'Be still and know that I am God'** (*Psalms 46:10*), before getting on with whatever His will is for you today.

Our Savior loved *Quiet Times* and wants you to learn to love precious times with your God in a *secret place* where you go often every day. Wherever that place is for you, it's the secret of the **'really good life'** God has for you in Christ (*Psalms 27:5, 31:20, 91:1*).
-PtL

‘All in A Day’s Walk’

(The Secret of Christ and His People’s Daily Walk in The World)

From Sunday’s message - Luke 4:40-44

In every chapter of 1st John we are told that we have the potential now as Christians, to *walk* in this world with the same success, dignity, and grace as Jesus did (*1 John 1:7, 2:6, 3:3, 4:17, 5:18*). The secret to us actually living this way must be found in the gospel accounts of Jesus life, as He lived it, during His first coming.

In our Sunday study, we saw a typical day of the Savior in **Luke 4: 40-42**. His day began early with private devotions with the Lord in a *solitary place* that no doubt included praise for blessings of yesterday and prayer for God’s gracious leading for the day ahead. Six more verses in Luke implies that *Quiet Time* devotions were a lifestyle pattern we should follow in becoming like the Master – **5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 21:36-38, 22:39-46, 23:33-34**. Let’s focus our attention on **Luke 21:36-38** tonight because its context is the last days before the Lord Jesus returns and how to make sure our lives are ready when He comes.

Discussion Group Questions:

In context of the seriously dangerous last days’ temptations of immorality, worldliness and anxiety (21:34-35), what should be a high priority prayer request in all Christians’ ‘Quiet Times’ with the Lord (v 36)?

- Discuss how to do this, especially during the day when temptations and trials tend to come up suddenly, catching us by surprise. What do you do to ‘flee’ temptation (*1 Corinthians 10:13-14a*)?
- Is v. 36 just for you or is this something you should do for others, too?

Notice the pattern of Jesus in His ‘last days’ before going to the cross. With that ‘weight of the world’ upon Him, the coming desertion of Judas (22:1-6), and the disappointment of being rejected, His Q.T. pattern was essential for continual strength and grace. In these last days before Jesus’ return pressures upon believers will increase tremendously.

- Discuss how to apply Jesus’ pattern of activity in vs. 37-38 and try to apply them to your daily schedule.
- Talk about the correlation between devotional times (v 36) and ability to daily - live righteously, minister to others and witness effectively under duress (vs 37-38).
- Would you consider yourself a:
 - ‘preemptive disciple’ (good Q.T. times) at the start of the day before anything happens;
 - ‘reactionary disciple’ (urgency prayers as needed as things happen during the day); or
 - ‘past tense disciple’ (pray about fixing up things that went wrong at the end of the day)?
- Although some may say ‘all of the above’, which kind of devotional style best describes you? Which do you need to be better at?
- What changes do you need to make for Jesus’ lifestyle to become yours?