

## JESUS' SOLITUDE AND SILENCE

by Bill Gaultiere (<http://www.soulshpherd.org/2013/02/jesus-solitude-and-silence/>)

Many Bible students miss the importance of Jesus' solitude & silence. Every pastor, ministry leader, and caregiver — any disciple of Jesus! — needs to learn from Jesus' example of intimacy with God. I don't want to miss this! So I went back to the Gospel of Mark and did a Bible study on Jesus' solitude and silence. Continually Jesus withdrew from people, daily life activities, and the demands of his ministry to be alone with the Father and pray. Jesus' solitude and silence is a major theme in the Gospels.

The priority of Jesus' solitude and silence is everywhere in the Gospels. It's how he began his ministry. It's how he made important decisions. It's how he dealt with troubling emotions like grief. It's how he dealt with the constant demands of his ministry and cared for his soul. It's how he taught his disciples. It's how he prepared for important ministry events. It's how he prepared for his death on the cross.



Jesus' solitude is how he went deeper in his love-relationship with the God he knew as "Abba". Jesus invites us to join him.

### Even Mark Can Be Unhurried with Jesus

How could we miss the significance of Jesus' solitude and silence with the Father? How could we think that we can live well or *love well* without following Jesus' example?

Mark doesn't miss it!

Many Bible scholars say that Mark tells his gospel in a hurry. Indeed his favorite expression is "immediately" (or "at once") which he uses 39 times (NASB). He is so excited to tell us about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus! He even skips the story of Jesus' birth. He gets out the Gospel of Jesus much faster than any of the other Gospel writers. (It takes only about an hour and fifteen minutes to read the Gospel of Mark straight through.)

But, like Jesus, *Mark is not really in a hurry — except to get to the cross!* (See Mark 10:32 when Jesus was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem where his cross waited.) Mark may be breathless with enthusiasm to share the Good News that Jesus has made the Kingdom of God available to us, but repeatedly he *pauses* to give us glimpses into Jesus' solitude and silence with the Father. In this way Mark invites us to join him and be *unhurried* with Jesus. Unhurried with Jesus. It can be your way of life too.

## **Bible Verses on Jesus' Solitude and Silence**

(Chronological following the Gospel of Mark with parallel passages (to add context) noted in [brackets] )

Mark 1:12

Mark 1:16

Mark 1:35

Mark 1:45 [Luke 5:15-16]

Mark 2:13

Mark 3:7

Mark 3:13 [Luke 6:12-13]

Mark 4:1 [Matthew 13:1-3]

Matthew 14:13

Mark 6:31-32

Mark 6:46 [Matthew 14:22-23]

Mark 7: 24

Matthew 15:29

Mark 8:27 [Luke 9:18]

Mark 9:2

John 7:10 “After his brothers had gone up to the feast, then [Jesus] also went up, not publicly but in private.” (John 7:10, ESV). [Jesus walked *90 miles* from Galilee to Jerusalem, which gave him about *five days* in solitude.]

Luke 11:1

John 10:39-41

Mark 10:32 “They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid.” [Apparently Jesus kept silent for most of the 22-mile hike. Luke 9:51 says Jesus was “resolute.” He told them that he’d be tortured and killed in Jerusalem.]

Mark 14:26 [Luke 22:39]

Mark 14:32

**What is stirred in your soul by interacting with this study of Jesus' life?**