

**Sermon Quotes**  
**March 19 , 2006**  
**The Necessity of Solitude**

In order to **grow close** and **stay close** to the Lord, we must spend time **alone** with the Lord.

**Luke 22:39-41** ESV “And he (Jesus) came out and went, **as was his custom**, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. (40) And when he came to the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’ (41) And he **withdrew from them about a stone’s throw**, and knelt down and prayed...”

**Matthew 14:22-23** ESV “Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. (23) And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went **up on the mountain by himself** to pray. When evening came, **he was there alone...**”

**Luke 6:12** ESV “In these days he went **out to the mountain to pray**, and all night he continued in prayer to God.”

**John 12:26** ESV “If anyone serves me, he must **follow me**; and **where I am**, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me (i.e. “follows me”), the Father will honor him.”

**Exodus 33:7-8, 11** ESV “Now **Moses** used to take the tent and pitch it **outside the camp, far off from the camp**, and he called it the tent of eeting...Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent...Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...”

**(David) Psalms 62:1-2, 6-8** ESV “For God alone my soul **waits in silence**; from him comes my salvation. (2) He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken...For God alone, O my soul, **wait in silence**, for my hope is from him. (6) He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. (7) On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, **my refuge is God**. (8) Trust in him at all times, O people; **pour out your heart** before him; God is a refuge for us.”

**Daniel 6:3-5** ESV Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. (4) Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. (5) Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

**Daniel 6:10-11** ESV “When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows **in his upper chamber** open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees **three times a day** and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as he had done previously**. (11) Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.”

“...From all the concerns of the world into a kind of vision...of being alone in the mountains, or some solitary wilderness, **far from all mankind**, sweetly conversing with Christ, wrapped and swallowed up in God.”

“I will mention some valuable guards of life and character. One is the habit of **secret prayer**. Private prayer should be regularly offered, at least in the morning and in the evening. We cannot do without set seasons for drawing near to God. To look into the face of man without having first seen the face of God is very dangerous: to go out into the world without locking up the heart and giving God the key is to leave it open to all sorts of spiritual drift and wandering. It may be said, ‘We can pray at all times.’ I know we can: but I fear that those who do not pray at **specific times** seldom pray at all...Never allow great gaps in the wall of your **habitual private prayer**.”

—Charles Spurgeon

**2 Corinthians 4:4** ESV “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**2 Corinthians 11:14** ESV (14) “And no wonder, for even Satan **disguises himself** as an angel of light.”

**2 Corinthians 2:11** (NASB) “...that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for **we are not ignorant of his schemes**.”

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### **Modern-day Schemes of the Devil?**

1. The Illusion that **technology** is always a good thing and will only and ever improve our lives.
2. The more **tasks and activities** we can cram into our lives, the happier and more successful we will be.

"In our frustrating and futile efforts to keep up the demands of life maintenance, our souls have shriveled. We have more tasks, activities, and deadlines to accomplish than ever; we have more to organize, store, and maintain than ever; and the result is that we're becoming increasingly efficient at leading meaningless lives."

—Donald Whitney

“The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, **quieter life** come flowing in.”

—C.S. Lewis

“How we begin our morning so often sets the tone for the day. I'm convinced that the most decisive time of our day is very often our first waking moments, because they color everything to come... Purpose by grace that your first thought of the day will be an expression of your dependence on God, your need for God, and your confidence in God.”

—CJ Mahaney

**Isaiah 50:4** (NASB) “The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me **morning by morning**; he awakens my ear **to listen as a disciple.**”

“We do not drift into spiritual life; we do not drift into disciplined prayer. We will not grow in prayer unless we plan to pray. That means we must self-consciously **set aside time** to do nothing but pray.”

—DA Carson

“If you receive the love of God fully into your souls it will nourish the contemplative life. You will want to be alone. You will prefer to sit silently at Jesus' feet while others wrangle over the little politics of the day... You will love no company so much as the society of Him who is the Best and the Most. To be with God in quiet will be your highest enjoyment. You will not say, as some do, 'I must have recreation.' Contemplation of God is recreation to the child of God. It creates the soul anew. And is not this the truest recreation?”

—Charles Spurgeon