

Sermon Notes
September 13, 2020
“Solitude – the Beginning of Prayer”
Mark 1:35-39

Introduction

- “Prayer is nothing but love” – Augustine
- Dismantling a mistaken view of prayer
 - ◊ It’s not a function
 - ◊ It’s not a grocery list
 - ◊ It is relationship!

Jesus at prayer in Mark’s Gospel – only three times – but always in solitude!

- Mark 1:35
- Mark 6:46
- Mark 14:35,39

Solitude Slows Us

- A very busy day (Mark 1:21-34)
- We live hurried lives
- Solitude reminds us to stop and be still
 - ◊ Find ways to do this
 - ◊ Prayer begins with solitude

Solitude Confronts Us

- The noise of our thoughts
- Solitude “sifts us”
 - ◊ We face the truth about ourselves (Psalm 51:3)
 - ◊ Mark 14:36 – “Yet not what I will, but what you will”
 - ◊ I cannot pretend when I am alone with God.

Solitude Teaches Us

- What happens next and Jesus’ reply (Mark 1:38)
 - ◊ Solitude with God means we know what matters, what our calling is, and what the next step is
 - ◊ Story of Norman Grubb: “Good morning, God. I love you! What are you up to today? I want to be part of it.”

Three Steps In Solitude

- “Do nothing” – we learn the value of doing nothing, being still, relying on God.

- Find a tree – Psalm 1, the opening of the Bible’s “Prayer Book”, begins with a description of someone like a tree. Prayer begins not with what we don’t see, but with what we do see!
- Embrace the prayers of others – the importance and value of “liturgy”, the prayers of Christians down the ages.