

"Come Aside and Rest Awhile"

June 5, 2011, Pastor Steve Edmondson

Mark 6: 30-32, 45-52

* We learn many lessons in solitude and rest.

* Labor and rest are BOTH necessary to a successful life; physically and spiritually.

We learn about REST in LABOR.....we learn about LABOR in REST!

* The Word says "If we don't work, we don't eat", but it also says, "Come aside and rest..."

STORMS

* Sometimes we cannot REST in a storm. Storms are a fact of life and are not subject to our particular situation.

* We may not understand the purpose of a "storm", but in rest and reflection we understand what it was all about.

4 Lessons we learn in solitude and rest.

1. When we feel the most separated from God, He is teaching us the most.

These are times of RAW faith, when it seems like our circumstances are completely contradictory to everything we believe; for instance, when it is our time for our health and/or finances are attacked. We all go thru storms * and times of wondering where God is.

** WILDERNESS IS PART OF THE LANDSCAPE OF FAITH!

Mountaintops and wilderness are both part of our journey.

2. God doesn't show up early, but He is ALWAYS on time.

3. God takes us THRU the storms in order to reveal His character.

**When we have accomplished all we can do, we still don't know anything about what God can do!

** David knew the character of God when he said to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." He KNEW God would deliver!

4. God's presence ALONE should suffice in ANY storm!

*It's not "God and....." that will win the battle. It's God and God alone.

* **Every resource we need comes with His Presence.**

If you are going thru a 'storm', I encourage you to enter into God's presence thru praise and worship (enter His presence with Thanksgiving in your heart). Let HIS presence permeate and change the atmosphere of your life, your home and your church. Watch circumstances change as you trust His Word completely and enter into His rest.