

20. JESUS AND THE PLACE OF PRAYER



WALKING AS JESUS DID

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1. THE PLACE OF SOLITUDE

◆ THE DESERT

deserted, remote, solitary; as a noun, desert, uninhabited wilderness, or grasslands, implying in some contexts to be a forsaken, desolate place

Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. **36** Simon and his companions went to look for him, **37** and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" **38** Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else — to the nearby villages — so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." **39** So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Luke 5:12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." **13** Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. **14** Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." **15** Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. **16** But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

2. THE PLACE OF TRANSFORMATION ✦ THE MOUNTAIN

Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. **29** As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. **30** Two men, Moses and Elijah, **31** appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. **32** Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. **33** As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters — one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) **34** While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35** A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." **36** When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

2 Corinthians 4:6 It is God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' that has shone into our hearts to enlighten them with the knowledge of God's glory, the glory on the face of Christ. **4:7** But we hold this treasure in pots of earthen ware, so that the immensity of the power is God's and not our own.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now this Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And all of us, with our unveiled faces like mirrors reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the image that we reflect in brighter and brighter glory; this is the working of the Lord who is the Spirit.

3. THE PLACE OF SURRENDER ◆ THE GARDEN

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a plot of land called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Stay here while I go over there to pray.' **37** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And he began to feel sadness and anguish.

Matthew 26:38 Then he said to them, 'My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake with me.' **39** And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed. 'My Father,' he said, 'if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.' **40** He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, 'So you had not the strength to stay awake with me for one hour? **41** Stay awake, and pray not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing enough, but human nature is weak.' **42** Again, a second time, he went away and prayed: 'My Father,' he said, 'if this cup cannot pass by, but I must drink it, your will be done!' **43** And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. **44** Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. **45** Then he came back to the disciples and said to them, 'You can sleep on now and have your rest. Look, the hour has come when the Son of man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Get up! Let us go! Look, my betrayer is not far away.'

Hebrews 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered **9** and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...