



HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM SERMON 19th November 2023

LUKE 5: 12-16 – SOLITUDE

ADVANTAGES:

1. Was Jesus an extremely busy person?
2. Do you think that he was someone in control of his timetable so that he was able to say 'no' to other pressures around him?
3. Was it a good idea to go into the wilderness so that he was alone without the support of his friends, hungry, tired and vulnerable?
4. Would you seek solitude when you knew that there were insurmountable pressures ahead?

BARRIERS:

1. Do you sometimes feel bored? What do you do when that happens?
2. Do you think that there is a surfeit of noise around you. Do you welcome it, or do you find it annoying?
3. John Mark Comer in his book says this about noise: "**External noise is easy to quiet. Just turn off your phone. Power down your stereo. Lie on your couch or walk to the park. Or book a night at a cabin close by. Or maybe even a monastery. Easy. But internal noise? That's a whole other animal. A wild beast in desperate need of taming. There's no off switch.**" What are your thoughts about all this?
4. Can you give examples of what is meant by 'external noise' and 'internal noise'?

CULTIVATION:

1. Richard Foster in his book 'Celebration of Discipline' wrote: **Loneliness is inner emptiness. Solitude is inner fulfilment.** Do you agree with this statement?
2. Do you believe that having a quiet place is beneficial but is it the first thing to go when life becomes hectic?
3. Is it easy to practise solitude?

4. **Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. We do not take the spiritual life seriously if we do not set aside some time to be with God and listen to him.** Henri Nouwen. Do you agree?