

DEEP



WIDE

SERMON NOTES



VINTAGE PRESS

Deep & Wide: Sermon Notes

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Design, layout, and illustrations by Christopher Wilson.

DEEP-SILENCE & SOLITUDE

DEEP & WIDE RECAP

- Resources & Media: nola.vcmvmt.com/deepandwide
- Jesus modeled the rhythm of the Christian life—deep and wide.
- Vintage Church will grow deep by focusing on who we are becoming in Jesus and we will grow wide by focusing on who we are inviting into Jesus.

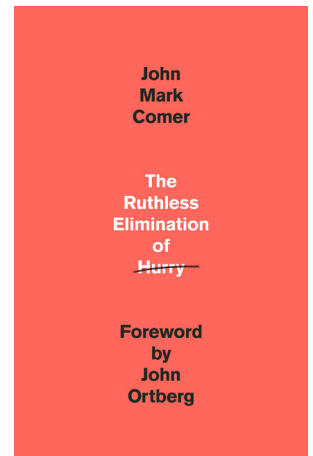
What do I need to do to become the me I want to be? 'You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. There is nothing else. Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.'

John Mark Comer, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, 18-19

We can go deep when we regularly and consistently practice silence and solitude for care, relationship, and preparation.

¹Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

1 Kings 19:1-3



IN SILENCE & SOLITUDE, GOD

CARES FOR US

⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ⁵And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and

touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." ⁸And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

1 Kings 19:4-8

Why do we need silence and solitude?

- We attempt to fix ourselves in busyness and noise.

We become what we give our attention to, for better or worse.

John Mark Comer, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, 55

- How do you need God to care for you?

MEETS WITH US

⁹There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹¹And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:9-13

The silence that comes after the chaos is pregnant with the presence of God.

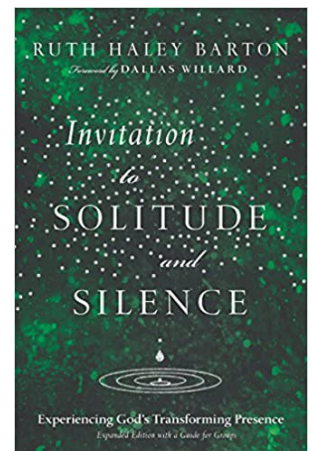
Ruth Haley Barton, *Invitation to Silence and Solitude*, 110

Why do we need silence and solitude?

- What distracts you?
- In silence and solitude we remove external and internal noise.

PREPARES US

¹⁴He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵And the LORD said



to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

1 Kings 19:14-18

Why do we need silence and solitude?

- Many of us question whether God has an assignment for us. Maybe it's not that we don't have an assignment but that we're missing it because we can't hear God.
- Many of us feel ill-equipped to do what God has called us to. Maybe we're ill-equipped because we're not listening to God's training.
- What is God wanting to prepare you for?

HOW DO WE BEGIN TO PRACTICE SILENCE & SOLITUDE?

(Deep & Wide Quarter 2 Guidebook, pp. 36-37)

- Identify the best time and place for you
- Set a modest goal (i.e., frequency & length) for yourself
- Remove all distractions (e.g., internal, external)
- Concentrate on your breathing
- Consider Bible reading, silent prayer, or prayer journaling
- Remember the point: Being with God