

The Messenger

A Ministry of Nahunta Friends Church

Come with Me!

January 2026

Superficiality is the curse of our age...the desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people. ~ Richard Foster

Have you ever had a demanding day? In Mark Chapter 6, we see Jesus and his disciples having one. It was a day marked by the rejection of Jesus by his hometown of Nazareth. A miraculous, short-term mission effort by the disciples. The horrible martyrdom of John the Baptist and the miraculous feeding of a multitude. Finally, the disciples encounter a vicious storm on the water, and at around 3:00am Jesus walks on the choppy waves to them in the storm. When he climbs into their boat, the storm ceases. Now, that is a challenging day!

When I read this chapter in a red-letter Bible, each reference to the words of Jesus is penetrating and carries great insight. But the words of verse 31 strike me the most right now. In the throes of a stressful day, Jesus says, *Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.* Consider with me what these words could mean for us right now.

First, Christ invites his disciples into fellowship with him. He says, *Come with me.* The personal nature of Christ's presence with us is the same. In the midst of a sometimes hectic and challenging life., Jesus says, *tune everything out, and tune me in!* We don't have to beg God to be with us. He desires it more than we do, and he knows how much we need to be with him.

Then he says, *by yourselves.* This shows the specific need we have at times to be cut off from the urgency around us. The disciples needed relief from people, and so do we. Jesus calls them to a corporate solitude, away from the demands, noise, and expectations of others. Multitasking can be a wonderful practice, but not when it comes to prayer and deep communion with the Lord.

Next, he says *to a quiet place.* They are not being called to a resort, but to a place that is still, calm, and private. Other translations use *desert* or *desolate place* to describe the Shepherd's invitation. Jesus is pulling them away from the pace within them and around them.

The fourth part of this sentence from Jesus is the purpose of it all: *and get some rest.* This rest is not just physical, it is spiritual, mental, and emotional. The disciples need to be replenished and removed from the addictive nature of constant stimulation and engagement. To do that they need to be with Jesus, without others, in a quiet place, so they can rest. Jesus is inviting them to more than a nap. He is calling them to a fresh state of being. He is inviting them to what he says in Matthew 11:28, *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

Do we know how much Jesus wants to be with us? Do we know how badly we need to be with him? Wherever you are right now, whatever you are doing...stop. Close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. Don't rush this. Now listen. Can you hear it? Can you sense it? He is speaking your name. He is saying, *Come with me.* What if you let go of all you are holding onto, and take his hand?

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