

## The Reset: Solitude and Silence

### Revelation 2:1-5

**2** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

<sup>2</sup> I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

The church had many things going well, were doing many things right, and yet something was deeply wrong.

They needed to return to their first love- Jesus was calling them back to the starting line to begin again.

These kinds of encounters with Jesus can be called a “Reset.” We all need them from time to time.

In a knowledge-rich culture with unparalleled access to it, **it is easier than ever for knowledge to surpass obedience!**

If we do not heed the call to “Reset”, we end up in places we never dreamed of, held fast by the power of sin.

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A vital “Reset” that Jesus is calling us into: To withdraw from the noise and crowds of life to be alone with the Father.

Over and over again, the Bible says that “Jesus withdrew,” or “Jesus went away.”

Whenever Jesus withdrew, it was always to seek out His Father, His will, and to be renewed in His presence.

### Mark 1:35

<sup>35</sup> In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

Contrast this with modern day “Me-time,” which is unfulfilling, unrefreshing, and only delays the inevitable.

Jesus observed solitude and silence with a purpose- He sought renewal for the purpose of pouring out again.

He was always interrupted! But Jesus emerged with surprising power, clarity of vision, and readiness to serve.

### Mark 1:36-39

<sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions searched for Him; <sup>37</sup> they found Him, and \*said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” <sup>38</sup> He \*said to them, “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.” <sup>39</sup> And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

Jesus also sought out solitude and silence just to take in the majesty of creation.

### Matthew 15:29-30

<sup>29</sup> Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there. <sup>30</sup> And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them *those who were* lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them.

### **Matthew 14:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard *about John*, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard *of this*, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

Jesus withdrew to grieve with His Father. Even an emotion as natural as grief must be processed in the presence of God.

<sup>14</sup> When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

### **Matthew 14:22-25 (after feeding the 5000)**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. <sup>23</sup> After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

### **John 6:15**

<sup>15</sup> So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Jesus withdrew from the pressures of people to maintain razor sharp focus on God's specific purpose for Him.

### **Matthew 14:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. <sup>25</sup> And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.

Jesus' solitude was never lonely enough, the silence never quiet enough, but the grace of God was enough.

He was restored and strengthened to serve, receiving daily and momentary grace from His Father.

He needed incredible grace, because He was preparing for His final departure.

### **John 14:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

### **Matthew 6:6**

<sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.