

# Solitude with the Savior

John Paul Schulze

Ambassadors Sunday Morning Community  
Summer Series 1 – Loving and Listening Well  
June 10, 2018

## Christ's Example of Humility

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any *comfort from love*, any *fellowship (esv-participate) in the Spirit*, any *affection and compassion (esv-sympathy)*, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but *emptied himself*, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define something “worth your time?”
2. How do you think Jesus values time?
3. What is your most valuable commodity/asset?
4. What does God value most?
5. What people or experiences come to mind when you think of solitude?
6. Who is the most compassionate person you ever met? Why?

## The Way of the Heart by Henri Nouwen:

Society was regarded as a shipwreck from which each single individual man had to swim for his life...These were men who believed that to let oneself drift along, passively accepting the tenants and values of what they knew as a society was purely and simply a disaster.

Our society is not a community radiant with the love of Christ, but a dangerous network of domination and manipulation in which we can easily get entangled and lose our soul.

social compulsions. The need for ongoing and increasing affirmation. The compulsion manifests itself in the lurking fear of failing and the steady urge to prevent this by gathering more of the same-more work, more money, more friends.

Solitude is not like a private therapeutic “me time” place. It is according to Nouwen “the place of conversion, the place where the old self dies and the new self is born.” In solitude with the savior we struggle and encounter Jesus in the struggle. “As we come to realize that it is not we who live but Christ who lives in us, that he is our true self, we can slowly let our compulsions melt away begin to experience the freedom of the children of God.”

Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to the place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely and broken. In order to be of service to others we have to die to them; that is, we have to give up measuring our meaning and value with the yardstick of others.