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The Shores of Wilderness



Work colleagues wandered into one another's offices, often at the most overwhelmed and exasperated intersections of their days, to exhale fragments of frayed and patched agendas and deadlines. "What are we doing that matters?"

Today's gospel describes a busy, even frantic scene. Great crowds. All that they had done. Rushed. Taught. Healed. No leisure even to eat. Hurried. The sick. Sheep without a shepherd. Marketplaces. Great

crowds.

Then, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile” (Mark 6:31). Jesus leads the way—away—to a deserted place, to the shores of wilderness where we can be close to ourselves, where we can receive rest.

Come away to rest with Jesus in a deserted place where what we do and who we are meet. Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where giving and receiving bask in love for one another. Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where the still small voice and the voice crying in the wilderness grace our silence.

Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where visions beyond and dreams within awaken one another. Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where the tree withers to bear new fruit.

Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where yesterday’s hour and tomorrow’s hour are blessed in now’s moment. Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where extravagant abundance gladdens scarcity.

Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where knowing lies down quietly as believing rises. Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where shepherd and sheep come together. Come away to rest with Jesus in the deserted place where it matters.

And they did. They “went away in the boat to a deserted place” (Mark 6:32).

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