



## Grain

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” Jeremiah 31:1

## Field

“30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:30-34

## Thoughts

Do you have a secret place, somewhere you disappear in response to booming noise, white noise, or the loudest type of noise - inner noise? For some people, outside of praying in their daily lives, the church alone is a sanctuary to rest in God, especially if they are not always leading worship; for others it is the church and somewhere else they might retreat during the week, or a spiritual center they go to occasionally. I remember our seminary field director, Professor David Lindberg, one time telling a group of students that it is important to find a secret place. He wasn't giving us yet another assignment. Rather, he was encouraging us to give ourselves permission to rest and to spiritually retreat, as Jesus did when he led the disciples to a deserted location that was left unnamed. Human need surrounded Jesus and the disciples, but they were also human and needed refuge.

What happens if we don't take time to reflect, worship, and pray, and neglect our connection to God? In the lesson from Jeremiah, the prophet issued a warning to leaders who destroyed. Those shepherds were ones who forgot Yahweh and co-opted the name of God for their own personal power. God is our haven and also a public presence in the world. Spirituality and action go together, and when we lose our life of prayer and grounding in God, things can go wrong. Not that our worship and retreating lead us to a path of perfection, but it's important to create space to uncover our inner noise of judgements and forgetfulness about our own humanity.

May you find strength in your worship and any secret places you retreat to, and may God create a sacred space around you wherever you may be. Happy Monday!

## Prayer

Highly Recommended

## Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org)

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy