March 31, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
ACCELERATE : Beyond The Starting Blocks of Faith
Episode 3: **TIME WITH GOD**
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Mark 1:35-39

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place,
where He prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for Him, 37 and when they found Him, they
exclaimed: **"Everyone is looking for You!"**
38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I
have come." 39 So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

The human attention span is at its lowest...ever. According to a study by Microsoft, the average human being now has an attention span of **eight seconds**. This is a sharp decrease from the average attention span of 12 seconds in the year 2000.[1]

- We are living life increasingly out of focus, addicted to the tyranny of the urgent and overwhelmed by the needs of the day.
- The Devil makes his dwelling at the intersection of distraction and chaos.
    - **1 Corinthians 14:33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace.**

If *Christ-following* had a secret sauce, it would be spending daily, dedicated, solitary personal time with God.

- Christian spirituality is not a religion of rule following or deed doing, but rather one of relationship, set in the mortar of time alone with God.[2]

3 Practical lessons from Mark 1:35-39

1. The rest of Jesus' life was subservient to time with His Father.
2. Jesus' agenda was set by time with the Father.
3. Power for life flowed from Christ's times with His Father.

1. Everyone wanted a piece of Jesus

Vs. 36-37 *Simon and his companions went to look for Him, 37 and when they found Him, they exclaimed: **"Everyone is looking for you!"***

- How do you live when everyone is looking for you?

[1] https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2015/09/technology-was-killing-attention-spans-115-years-ago/
[2] John 15 elaborates on this and would be a good study tool this week.

2. Jesus directed His calendar. It did not direct Him.

- **Vs. 39** *"So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and* ***driving out demons****.*
    - "So" - This is a powerful word that showed Jesus' decision making process when the politically savvy or commercially effective move would have been to cater to the crowds and build His platform.
        - "The pastoral itch to be where 'the action is' should be resisted."
          — Eugene H. Peterson

Jesus has the "power" to not only identify, but dispense of the demonic, after time with His Father.

- **Power can be translated as *fruit* in the New Testament.**
    - **John 15:4** *Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.*

Food for the journey: These questions are for deeper personal reflection or for discussion in one of our small groups.

1. What does your current daily time with God look like? Is it producing the results you want?
2. Jesus did not let the clamoring crowds dictate his life. Would you say that the same is true for you.
3. Jesus knew that it was time to leave that city after spending time with God. How do you source your decision making?
4. John 15 uses the term "fruit" to show having the ability to live a spiritually powerful life. How do we get this fruit and does spending time with God offer it? How?
5. How can you re-imagine your time with God and make changes to grow deeper in your relationship with God?