

How Jesus Processed Transition: Life Passages For Leadership

Mark 6:27-ff / Matthew 14:13 / Mark 6:7-13

The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat). They went away in their boat to a secluded place by themselves.

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 cities...

Jesus had to manage intense loss

The REASONS for CROSSING OVER to the OTHER SIDE

Jesus heard of the beheading of John by those of John's disciples who had taken his body and laid it in a sepulcher

Departure to a secluded place to process the feelings that the event of John's death awakened in Him

We cannot eliminate loss or the impact it has on us

Loss can lead to being or feeling lost

The loss of John the Baptist for Jesus led to a whole new phase of ministry and release

Loss has to be viewed through the lens and fruit of faith

- Faith in the ultimate intention of the Father
- Faith in the wisdom of the Father
- Faith in the Unseen Hand of the Father
- Faith in the testing that the Father allows
- John's death created a vacuum
- John's death created an empty space
- John's death created unfilled space
- Emptiness is a prerequisite to fullness

There is a confluence of events that precipitate travel to the “secluded” place

Confluence – a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point; the place of meeting of two streams

On the one hand there is the martyrdom of John the Baptist

On the other hand simultaneously the apostles return to give a report on the progress and advance of the Kingdom message

Jesus “heard” two reports:

- One report involved loss
- One report involved gain

The secluded place provides space for undisturbed reflection

The secluded place is essential to renewal because the “comers and goers” can and will weary a servant-leader

Departing to a secluded place is a skill that will provide empowerment through a transition, enabling a leader to gain her or his bearings.

Moving to a secluded place is an indication of disorientation

Healthy disorientation leads to healing and renewal

Departing to a secluded place is strategic in that it offers passage through the territory of transition into the sphere of new direction

The boat was the vehicle of transition to the secluded place (a secluded place is screened or hidden from view...it is the SOLITARY place)

The boat can in transition represent a basic life-structure that provides uninterrupted connection to the necessary resources of life while in transition

- In the departure there is a letting go
- In the departure there is a moving on
- In the departure there is a temporary detachment from our social roles
- In the departure there is power to disconnect from unnecessary fear
- In the departure there is an immersion into the sea of transition and creation itself (As in Genesis 1:1-2 - from chaos to order in the waters of creation)
- In the departure there is a pathway created that leads to the new answers that the new questions of transition raised

The secluded place brings solitude

In solitude you connect with the deep river of God (bodies of water often speak of transitional seasons in Scripture), and the abundant resources of that river Consider **Genesis 2:10-14** - the resources in the four heads that flowed from the ONE RIVER out of Eden

- The stream of living waters is typified here (see also **Psalm 46:1; John 7:38**) - it flows out of paradise unnamed because it is beyond description - it is the **FLOW OF DIVINE TRUTH**
- When it flows beyond Paradise it takes on expressions that can be grasped
 - Pishon - increase (flows around **Havilah** - "circle") - gold, bdellium, onyx
 - Gihon - bursting forth
 - Tigris - rapid
 - Euphrates - fruitfulness
- Solitude is the place where you grow and develop enough to move into the new season
- Solitude is the place where assumptions about the way the world works change

- The secluded place becomes a state of engagement with the Spirit (Psalm 46:10)
- The secluded place becomes the “secret place of the Most High” (Psalm 91:1)
 - In the secret place the passionate fire of the Spirit is able to kindle a flame
 - In the secret place intuition is sharpened and honed (Psalm 25:14 - The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant)
 - In the secret place servant-leadership results in prophetic insight into what wants to unfold that has been kept secret - Amos 3:7 - Surely the Lord God does nothing unless he reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets
- The secluded place becomes the platform for the working of miracles at a new dimension (Matthew 14:15-16)