



THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

**DAILY TIME WITH GOD
MAKING GOD A PRIORITY**

Lesson 1:

"That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons." Mark 1:32-39

At sundown the whole city showed up at Jesus's door. Making an educated guess how long do you think Jesus spent healing the city?

How did Jesus respond the next day to a long night of healing people from the city?

What was Peter's response to not finding Jesus?

Why did Jesus respond to Peter that way?

Read and Reflect: Choose 2 of these verses to memorize.

Psalm 5:3- "In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."

Psalm 143:8- "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life."

Matthew 6:33- "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

John 15:5- "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Hebrews 4:16- "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

James 4:8- "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

These verses emphasize the importance of seeking God daily, spending time in prayer and meditation, and relying on God's guidance and presence in our lives. They encourage believers to prioritize their relationship with God above all else. In the passage from Mark 1:32-39, we witness an extraordinary display of Jesus's compassion and divine healing power. At sundown, the entire city gathered at Jesus's doorstep, seeking healing for their ailments and deliverance from demons. While it is challenging to determine the exact duration of Jesus's healing ministry that evening, it's evident that it was a labor-intensive and exhausting endeavor as He healed many individuals with various diseases and cast out numerous demons.

The remarkable aspect of this passage is how Jesus responded to the demands of the crowd the next day. Despite the taxing night of ministering to the needs of the city, Jesus didn't seek personal comfort or rest. Instead, He rose very early in the morning, while it was still dark, and withdrew to a desolate place for prayer. This action highlights the profound importance Jesus placed on His communion with God the Father.

When Simon Peter and others eventually located Him and informed Him that "everyone is looking for you," Jesus responded with a clear sense of purpose. He explained, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." Jesus recognized that His primary mission was to preach the message of God's kingdom and bring salvation to people.

In doing so, Jesus set a perfect example for us to follow. He demonstrated the importance of seeking spiritual strength and guidance through prayer and communion with God. His early morning prayer time reaffirmed His dependence on the Father and served as a reminder that His strength for ministry came from God. While we may not possess Jesus's divine nature, we can emulate His dedication to spending time with God daily, seeking His guidance and strength to fulfill our own God-given purposes.

How would you respond to a similar situation? If you had a long night of work, would you wake up early to spend time with God?

Homework for Lesson 1:

- Practice making God a priority. The earlier you can set your compass to God's direction and align your will to His, the better.
- Memorize 2 of the 6 verses pertaining to taking daily time with God. Prepare to share them.
- As you prepare to welcome the new day, consider this: Wake up tomorrow morning early and purposefully set aside time to be fully present with God. In the stillness of the dawn, close your eyes, and open your heart to His presence. Allow Him to speak to you in the quietness of your soul. Take note of the gentle whispers of His guidance, love, and wisdom. Make it a daily practice—a sacred ritual—to commune with Him in this intimate way. In this sacred silence, let His words, that you have memorized, etch themselves into your heart, guiding your steps and nurturing your spirit.