

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Ecclesiastes 4.

Mark 1:35 "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." (NIV)

Mark 6:45-46 "Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray." (NIV)

These are just two instances of Jesus going away to spend time in prayer, communicating, and enjoying quality time with the Father.

Last Friday, my son Josh called me and asked if I wanted to go to the Cal Poly Football game with him on Saturday. He mentioned he could pick us up some tickets since he works as a janitor at the university. I told him that would be great.

Going to see the Mustangs play was not the most important thing. Honestly, I didn't know their season record. I didn't know any of the coaches or players on the team. I didn't even know who they were playing and if it would be a good game. All I cared about was that Josh asked me to go with him. There have not been many occasions where Josh has just invited me to go and hang out with him, even though we live on the same property.

After saying yes to the invite, I realized that I have not asked Josh to go do something with me either. Our likes and dislikes are so different. Our schedules do not align. We both get busy and don't take the time to make plans to do much, other than share a meal at the house.

Jesus wanted and needed to spend time with the Father, especially in times when the crowds pressed in on Him. Or, following the death of John the Baptist. Or, when He felt strong temptations to not follow the Father's will.

Jesus constantly poured Himself in service to those who sought Him. When life is hectic. When people press in on us. When we have poured ourselves out in ministry, we, too, need to seek fellowship with the Father. Spend time with the Father, and spend time with your family.