

The Sacred Path (Part 1)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 10:38-42



Big Idea

Jesus says that sitting at His feet and listening to His word is the one “necessary” thing. But do we actually know what this looks like for us now in the 21st century? To help, imagine yourself on a path towards Jesus. The first three steps on this path are Solitude, Silence, and Scripture.

(1) Solitude

I should make the case for Solitude’s importance from Scripture. For this, while we could go to countless places, it seems we really needn’t go any further than just to take a quick survey of our Lord’s own life. Solitude with God was built into the very rhythms of His day to day (Luke 4:42; 5:15-16; Matt 14:23; cf. Mark 6:31). So, I think this Sacred Path towards Jesus begins with this idea of Solitude, of getting alone with God.

There is, of course, a very practical side to this. For one thing, Solitude creates space for you to engage Jesus with *minimal distraction*. And, second, we also understand that Solitude creates space for you to engage Jesus with *minimal reservation*.

(2) Silence

The first thing I feel I must show you here is that this is, in fact, a good, even a biblical, idea. On this, perhaps the place to start is by pointing out that Mary back in our text is, in fact, doing just this. She is not chattering or chattering back and forth with Jesus. No. We are told, rather, that she “sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching” (v. 39). A closed mouth and an open ear. That is what she brings first to Jesus. And that is really what I am referring to here (cf. Ex 14:13-14; Isa 30:15; Ecc 5:1-3; Hab 2:20).

Putting Silence here near the beginning of this Sacred Path is an attempt to let settle in our hearts the idea that it is God—His agenda, His will, His word—that is ultimate in this whole exchange. Our move towards silence is really a move back towards sanity. Silence before God is a return to our place in the universe. It’s saying without words: “You are God, and I am not.”

Part of the point in these times of Silence is to become more aware not just of God, but of the things you are thinking and feeling. As we become more aware of these things, we can more honestly surrender ourselves to Him and open ourselves up in the places we need Him to speak most.

(3) Scripture

Realistically, you may give only a few minutes to these things in the morning. But however long you sit in the Silence alone with God, the point is to ready yourself to hear from Him in Scripture (cf. 1 Kings 19:11-13a).

Reflection Questions



- What do you think it looks like to pursue the heart of Mary, to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen? How have you tried to do this in your life as a disciple up to this point? What’s worked? What’s been hard? What sorts of things might you now begin to do as a result of this sermon?
- How do you feel about Solitude, being alone? Do you avoid it? Are you afraid of it? Explain. Why do you think Solitude is important when it comes to engaging Jesus like Mary? How have you experienced this?
- How do you feel about Silence? Have you ever tried to quiet yourself before God? What’s it been like? What sorts of things would you say your thoughts tend to orbit around? Why?

THE SACRED PATH

Date: ___/___/___

SOLITUDE

SILENCE

*Cast my
cares.*

*Surrender
my will.*

*Open my
heart.*

SCRIPTURE