

Encounters

Part 7-Encountering the Silence of God

John 19:38-42

Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover^[U] and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. John 19:38-42 NLT

In the Seasons of Silence...

1. Don't WORRY-God is with you.

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet:

*"Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call Him Immanuel
which means 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1:23 NLT*

2. Don't WASTE the PAIN.

Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed. Genesis 39:19-23 NLT

3. Don't WAIVER.

I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1 NLT

4. Don't grow WEARY.

A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'" Luke 18:3-5 NLT

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 NLT

Consider that even in the silence...

1. God is always at WORK.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. Romans 8:28 NLT

2. God is keeping His PROMISES.

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 NIV

3. God is offering HOPE.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning... Matthew 28:1 NLT

Are you walking through a season of silence?

Where do you find your hope?