

Ambition → Exhaustion → Escape

"He who has set his heart exclusively upon the pursuit of worldly welfare is always in a hurry for he has but a limited time at his disposal to reach, to grasp, and to enjoy." – Alexis de Tocqueville

Jeremiah 17:5-6

5 This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes.



Jeremiah 17:7-8

7 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Strength for the public space is found in the abiding rhythms of the secret place.

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Luke 5:15-16

15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

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.

"What if there was a place that you could go, and every time you went there you received affirmation for who you really are, strength for whatever circumstances you face, encouragement in a time of disillusionment, and power to get through anything."

– Bob Sorge, "Secrets to the Secret Place"

➤ **Identity**

Matthew 3:17

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased."

"Solitude is the furnace of transformation. Without solitude we remain victims of our society and continue to be entangled in the illusions of the false-self...solitude is the place of the great struggle and the great encounter—the struggle against the compulsions of the false-self and the encounter of the loving God who offers Himself as the substance of the new self."

– Henri Nouwen



I am not what I do.
I am not what I have.
I am not what others say about me.
I am a child of God—known, chosen, loved.

➤ **Strength**

1 Samuel 30:3-4

3 When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

1 Samuel 30:6

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

"There's an enormous amount of outrage in the world that's converted into angry plans of attack and destruction. A great deal of social action and political reform is fueled by anger; the results are nearly always worse than the conditions that provoked the action. If we're going to do something about what's wrong with the world—the spectrum of wrongs from marital fights to world wars, from disobedient children to destruction of rain forests—we have to acquire a better base to work from than our anger." – Eugene Peterson

➤ **Courage**

Matthew 26:39

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Church at Gethsemane in Israel
(Basilica of Agony)

