

Solitude & Fellowship @ the Beach

Hearing God in Scripture ~ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

To prepare to read in order to receive from God, set down your Bible or electronic device for a minute. Close your eyes and breathe out slowly. Thank God for sending Jesus as your Savior, then ask Him to give you an open heart and mind to hear and receive whatever the Holy Spirit wants to bring to you today.

Read:

- ❖ Read **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** slowly, considering the invitation that reading Scripture is “encountering God Himself, or hearing His voice.”
- ❖ Now that the words are familiar, read them again. This time, listen with the “ear of your heart” for a word or phrase that stands out to you. Do not choose this for yourself. Let the Holy Spirit bring it to you. Welcome it with humility (*James 1:21*).

Reflect:

- ❖ Read the passage again slowly, while reflecting on the word or phrase that stood out to you. Why do you think these words resonated with you? Ponder this for a few minutes.
- ❖ Ask God: How does this connect with my life today? What do I need to know, or be, or do?

Respond:

- ❖ Read the passage one last time, while preparing for what you want to say to God about what the Holy Spirit said to you, or what came to you in the passage.
- ❖ Pray however you are led. You might thank God for something, or ask Him for something, or recite some lines of the passage as your prayer.

Rest:

- ❖ Do as you are led. You may wish to wait on God ... to simply *be with Him*. You may wish to pay attention to God, pondering the power and wonder of His creation, or how this passage adds to your wonder about Him. What about Him makes you want to worship Him ... to *be with Him*? Sit in the companionship of the Triune God ~ the One Who seeks you.

Relate:

- ❖ Write in your journal the many ways God’s Word ministered to you through this passage.
- ❖ Be prepared to share the impact of this passage with the other men as we re-convene.

(Adapted from Dallas Willard’s “Hearing God”)