

GOOD MORNING SAINTS

Golden Nugget

A Place Apart



The other day, I was pondering the meaning of the word "home." It might conjure up pictures of the house in which you grew up. It might be a place that exists only in your dreams. For some, the word "home" conjures bad memories — I hope that's not true for you.

Home can sometimes be simply a place in our heart. No matter what your image of home, no matter where home is, I want to suggest this; you need a **HOMEPLACE** for your heart — a place you can sort through what is happening in your life, a "retreat" near by, anyplace place that lets you sort things out. Jesus had places like that. Perhaps it was a mountaintop, perhaps a desert place.

Jesus and John the Baptist were close from the very beginning. John was the trailblazer, the Pioneer, the one who prepared the way for Jesus. One could tell John wouldn't last long because of the way he spoke about the religious and political leaders of his day. He was as politically incorrect as any person could be, yet he was totally correct about the coming of the Kingdom of God. Sure enough, his mouth got him into trouble (he told the plain truth), and he was unceremoniously beheaded in prison. When Jesus heard this, in Matthew chapter 14, He left where He was, got into a boat, and went to a place away and apart from His ministry life. He had to sort it all out.

We all need to go and sort things out sometimes, don't we?

You probably remember times you were caught offguard, or surprised, or upset by life events. What did you do to

process those events? How did you pick up the shattered pieces?

I can only encourage you to have “a place apart.” It should be a spot fairly close by — a quiet reflective place — but it needs to be a place that is especially your own. Perhaps a nearby park will do, or a favorite place in nature, or a quiet place near a running stream. You can even create a place like this in your home, no matter how small. Once you’ve created your “homeplace” let those around you know that it is your special place and you do not want to be disturbed in your retreat.

I have a place upstairs that is mine. I have my favorite side table, books, and music there. I have candles if I choose to use them, and a window to let in the light. I love it. It’s great for me. All the stuff I have there has special meaning to me. It’s the place where I sort things out.

You can create a spot like this in your home, and it’s a great time to do it. It needn’t be expensive. A comfortable chair, a small table, a place for books, candles are widely available, and lots of stores sell little decorative fountains that sound like a bubbling brook. Experiment with different things, shape, reshape, add and rearrange. Most important of all, invite God to come share this place with you. Let Him know that it’s your place to be with Him. It’s fun, relaxing, and spiritually refreshing to have such a place.

We all need some time away to be alone... especially to be alone with God in our homeplace. Don’t you think that if Jesus needed such a place, you do too!

So....Find your place apart...

Make a HOMEPLACE for your heart...

...and your God!