

SOLITUDE

(Today we'll see it, hear it, and do it...)

Solitude is where we see the invisible and hear the inaudible.

- Our founder practiced solitude regularly
 - Before choosing his disciples, “*Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God*” (Luke 6:12)
 - After hearing about the death of his cousin, John the Baptist, “*he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place*” (Matt 14:13)
 - He established this practice early in His ministry: *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.* (Mark 1:35)

- We live in a world of invisible realities and inaudible communication

The spiritual realm is one such example. Its realities are usually invisible, and its communications are usually inaudible

- Q: Why do we accept the existence of some forms of invisible reality and inaudible communication and not others?

A: In part, because of repeated exposure to them, and because of repeated exposure to their visible effects

- If solitude is where we see the invisible and hear the inaudible, then repeated practice should produce visible effects in us

The endless cycle of idea and action, endless invention, endless experiment, bring knowledge of motion, but not of stillness; knowledge of speech, but not of silence; knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word.

- T. S. Eliot, *Choruses from 'The Rock'*