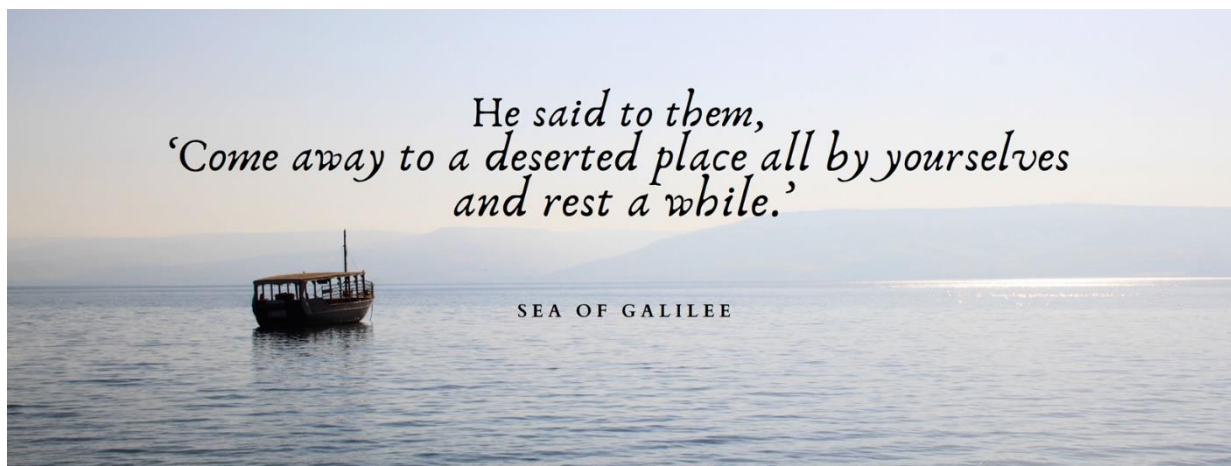


TIME TO LOVE SIMPLY
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 18 JULY 2021



Sea of Galilee 2021 | Sylvain Brison Unsplash.com

TOO BUSY

Some of the many remarks we might hear about being *very busy*.

- There is so much to do, I just can't stop.
- People need me – I can't stop now.
- I am so tired, I can't fully concentrate, but I need to keep going.
- I can't take a break. I don't know how to stop.
- I cannot spare any time for silence, what with all the noise in my life.
- Maybe I will slow down in 30 or 40 years when I'm retired.
- I am too busy saving up for what I need.

Each of us are invited now to write our comments about being very busy, and comments that we have heard from others. **[pause]**

We might tell ourselves how busy we are.
We might tell ourselves how important we are,
because we are so busy.
We might tell ourselves that we need to buy more luxury items,
and must work long hours for it.
We might tell ourselves that we are indispensable.

PRAYER & DEBRIEFING

Yet no matter how busy we are, only Jesus can save us.
And Jesus needed a break, he needed silence at times.
He needed regular prayer,
even though that prayer was sometimes interrupted by others.

Jesus showed the disciples how to take time to debrief together.
Our [Ladies Prayer Group](#) on Wednesdays,
and our [Men's Group](#) on Tuesdays
take time to listen to, and learn from, God's Word.
God's Word debriefs them.

Jesus showed the disciples how to renew themselves in prayer.
The Ladies Prayer Group and the Men's Group
take time to pray and be renewed.

Lenten Weekly Discussions are also a time
for listening to, and learning from, God's Word.

Today our children take time in a fun way,
to listen and learn in the *Sacramental Workshops*,
as they prepare for their First Eucharist next month.

Let us listen carefully to today's Gospel.

GOSPEL OF MARK 6:30-34

*'The apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.*

He said to them,

'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.'

*For many were coming and going,
and they had no leisure even to eat.*

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

*Now many saw them going and recognized them,
and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.*

*As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.'*

REST A WHILE WITH JESUS

The Gospel speaks of "*a deserted place*" with Jesus present to them.

We come to "*rest a while*" with Jesus.

In Jesus, our love, our prayer life, our feelings,
our thoughts, our actions are interrelated.

In Jesus we are made whole.

In Jesus we are invited to be continually in love.

SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

The disciples nearly 2,000 years ago had times with "*no leisure even to eat*".

Just when they thought that they would have that special time –
alone with Jesus – solitude with Jesus,
the crowds seek out Jesus.

*"and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns and arrived ahead of them".*

At other times the disciples have their rest with Jesus,
but in this episode, Jesus is needed by the crowd of people.
As any parent knows, there are times when you seek time-out,
and then the children urgently need you.

MOVED WITH COMPASSION

We view the context of the compassion of Jesus in today's Gospel

*"he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd"*

We note the biblical Greek word *splagchnizomai* used in today's Gospel.

Jesus had a movement of compassion, a compassion from deep within,
a compassion that leads to movement/action, or in a basic sense – a moving of the bowels.
Jesus is moved with compassion to act.

Jesus responded like a *'shepherd'*

And the Gospel says: *'and he began to teach them many things.'*

With compassion Jesus taught the crowd at that moment.

A moving compassion for others is a deep feeling.

The first three Gospels used a few examples of this word

where Jesus was *"moved with compassion"*

and where Jesus used the word in parables that he related.

Our *'resting with God'* can lead us to be moved with compassion for others.

SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX

A remarkable person, Therese of Lisieux, learnt long ago
that God invited her to love in all she did, and felt and thought.

With God she debriefed in love.

With God she prayed and recollected in love.

With God she was moved with loving compassion and mercy.

Therese was only 24 years old when she died of the TB illness.

Her autobiography enabled millions of people to learn

from her simplicity and her story of love.

Therese knew that we are all different and need each other.

We are not all roses. Therese saw herself as a little flower.

*'The splendour of the rose and the whiteness of the lily
do not rob the little violet of its scent
nor the daisy of its simple charm.
If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose,
spring would lose its loveliness.'*

As a young woman, Therese shared her joy.

*'I learned from experience that joy
does not reside in the things about us, but in the very depths of the soul,
that one can have it in the gloom of a dungeon as well as in the palace of a king.'*

In her openness to God's Word in the Bible, she said

*'... I take up the holy Scriptures.
Then everything seems so clear,
a single word opens up infinite horizons to my soul'.*

Therese loved with simplicity.

On her death bed, she revealed:

'I only love simplicity. I have a horror of pretence'.

God calls each of us to be holy.

Therese teaches us that it is

'simply in doing God's will, and being just what God wants us to be.'

With compassion, let us now pray

for all people affected by COVID, and those living in COVID Lockdowns

- in the Greater Sydney Region and Surrounding Districts
- in Melbourne and the Communities of Victoria
- and in Hotspots around the world.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/071821.cfm>

Prayer for Greater Sydney Region and Surrounding Districts

<https://bit.ly/PrayerforSydney08072021>

Prayer for Melbourne and the Communities of Victoria

<https://bit.ly/PrayerMelbourneandVictoria11072020>

