



Messiah Empowers
Part 2: "Silent Strength"
(Jeremiah 17:5-8)

Jeremiah 17:5-8

(English Standard Version)

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the Lord.

⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Jeremiah 17:5-8

(English Standard Version)

⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Today's Thematic Verse

"In quietness and in trust shall be your strength"

(Isaiah 30:15b)

Of Campus Sites and Quiet Time: Carthage College



Of Campus Sites and Quiet Time: Marquette University



The Problem: “Acedia”

- **“Acedia”** (Latin): “Restlessness”
- Acedia can be seen in *both* extremes of “sloth” [a lack of desire to do anything] and excessive activity [having to always be busy]
- “Acedia is the refusal to acquiesce in one’s own being” (Josef Pieper) [i.e., the inability to be still and be whom God created you to be, which is one who is made *imago dei*— “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:26)]
- **Acedia is the inability to simply be still in the presence of God.**
- “Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

I. Stillness

(A Definition of “Stillness”)

- Stillness as a state of spiritual balance and equilibrium
- A state of “Being” rather than “Doing” or “Becoming”

I. Stillness

(A Means of Knowing God)

- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still and know that I am God.**
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
- ¹¹ **The LORD of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46:8-11)

I. Stillness

(Peace/Shalom through Stillness)

- ³ You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
- ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:3-4)

II. Silence

(A Definition of Silence)

The opportunity to hear what is important

II. Silence

(Microsoft's Anechoic Chamber)



II. Silence

(Elijah hears God in the Silence)

- And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper [*a thin silence*]. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him. (1 Kings 11b-13a)

II. Silence

(Reverence through Silence)

- But the LORD is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)
- “Listen in silence before me, you lands beyond the sea.” (Isaiah 41:1)

III. Strength

(From Silence to Strength)

- ⁵ Let all that I am wait quietly before God,
for my hope is in him.
- ⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken.
- ⁷ My victory and honor come from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.
- ⁸ O my people, trust in him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62:5-8)

III. Strength

(An Example of Silent Strength)

⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ **He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,**
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

III. Strength

(Moving Forward in Silent Strength)

- Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

III. Strength

(The Power of Prayer)

- **The example of Jesus:**
- ¹⁵ But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. ¹⁶ But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.
(Luke 5:16)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen

Application

When and where is your “Quiet Time” with the Lord?



Let Us Pray

