

Luke 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

Analysis

And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done (ὑπέστρεψαν οἱ ἀπόστολοι διηγήσαντο αὐτῷ ὅσα ἐποίησαν, hypestrepsan hoi apostoloi diēgēsanto autō hosa epoiēsan)—The Twelve reported comprehensively. The verb diēgēsanto ("explained, narrated in detail") suggests thorough debriefing. This models accountability in ministry—those sent out must report back to the one who sent them.

And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place (παραλαβὼν αὐτοὺς ὑπεχώρησεν κατ' ἰδίαν, paralabōn autous hypechōrēsen kat' idian)—Jesus intentionally withdrew with His disciples. The phrase kat' idian ("privately, by themselves") indicates Jesus's pastoral concern for the apostles' rest and reflection after intensive ministry (see Mark 6:31: "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while"). **Belonging to the city called Bethsaida**—Bethsaida Julias, on the northeastern shore of Galilee, was home to Peter, Andrew, and Philip (John 1:44). Ironically, this retreat will be interrupted by crowds seeking Jesus (v. 11), leading to the feeding of the five thousand.

Historical Context

Bethsaida ("house of fishing") was rebuilt and renamed Bethsaida Julias by Philip the tetrarch in honor of Augustus's daughter Julia (circa AD 30). It lay just outside Herod Antipas's jurisdiction in the tetrarchy of Philip, providing a safer location

given Herod's growing interest in Jesus. The "desert place" was likely the uninhabited grasslands near the lake—not arid wilderness but countryside away from towns. Jesus regularly withdrew from crowds for prayer and teaching His disciples (Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:18).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's concern for the apostles' rest teach about balancing ministry activity with spiritual renewal and reflection?
2. How does the practice of reporting back to Jesus model accountability in Christian service?
3. Why is private time with Jesus essential after public ministry, and how can believers maintain this rhythm today?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὑποστρέψαντες οἱ ἀπόστολοι διηγήσαντο αὐτοὺς
And when they were returned G2532 G5290 **the apostles** G3588 G652 **told** G1334 **him** G846

ὅσα ἐποίησαν καὶ παραλαβὼν αὐτοὺς ὑπεχώρησεν
all that G3745 **they had done** G4160 **And** G2532 **he took** G3880 **him** G846 **and went aside** G5298

κατ' ἰδίαν εἰς τόπον ἔρημον πόλεως
privately G2596 G2398 **into** G1519 **place** G5117 **a desert** G2048 **belonging to the city** G4172

καλουμένης Βηθσαϊδά
called G2564 **Bethsaida** G966

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 11:21 (Parallel theme): Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Hebrews 13:17 (Parallel theme): Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Luke 10:17 (Parallel theme): And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

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