

**Devotional Thoughts :: TOZER - TRIALS AND PAIN: THE BACK SIDE OF THE DESERT**

**TOZER - TRIALS AND PAIN: THE BACK SIDE OF THE DESERT - posted by mama27, on: 2011/12/15 8:31**

December: Trials and Pain

The devil, things and people being what they are, it is necessary for God to use the hammer, the file and the furnace in His holy work of preparing a saint for true sainthood. It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.

The Root of the Righteous, 157.

December 15

Trials and Pain: The Back Side of the Desert

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

--Exodus 3:1

We should quickly review here the kinds of preparation Moses had gone through for his leadership role under God. Reared in Pharaoh's palace, he had been educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He had the prerequisites for almost any kind of career. In our day a man with his qualifications would be sought for election as a bishop or the president of any of the great church denominations.

Then, too, Moses had a most unusual but highly effective postgraduate course. God took him out of the activity and the noise of Egypt and placed him in the silence of the open spaces. He kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law. Tending the sheep, he learned lessons of meditation and observation that he could only have learned in the silence.

Probably more important than anything else, Moses learned to know himself. That knowledge was a part of God's preparation of the man for his future tasks. We, today, know everything but ourselves. We never really come to know ourselves because we cannot get quiet enough.

Men Who Met God, p. 70

"Lord, I pray this morning for the hurting pastor who is languishing in 'the silence of the open spaces,' on the back side of the desert. Encourage him; instruct him; then show Him how You can use him mightily in Your way and in Your time. Amen."

**Re: TOZER - TRIALS AND PAIN: THE BACK SIDE OF THE DESERT - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/12/15 9:26**

QUOTE:

"God took him out of the activity and the noise of Egypt and placed him in the silence of the open spaces."

Excellent point, mama.

There is so much to be learned in the silence. What do we feel when in it? Is it confusion? Is it delight in meditating on the WORD?

Seems to me that one of the tragedies of modern life is noise. It does interfere with creative thinking, communing with God...silence is to be welcomed - it is soft and comforting - so much to be learned in the silence.

Someone has suggested one of the major reasons so many want to fill their silences with 'music' is to drown out the voice of the Holy Spirit. How is it with me? with you?

This topic reminds me of a song and here are the lyrics:

GOD IS WAITING IN THE SILENCE  
by Oswald J. Smith

1. God is waiting in the silence  
For a heart that he can fill,  
He must find it cleansed and empty  
With a spirit calm and still.

CHORUS  
God is waiting in the silence  
Oh, to know that He is near  
Earth recedes and heaven opens  
God is waiting, God is here.

2. God is waiting in the silence  
Mid the rush and roar of life  
Waiting someone's heart to enter  
Someone quiet in the strife.

3. God is waiting in the silence  
As the world goes rushing by  
Will not someone stop and listen  
Answer quickly, "Here am I?"