

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #140 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 12/16/20)

“God Time”

A couple days ago, I carved out some “Mommy time” (one-on-one time) with each of my girls—spending half a day with each. As a single mom, creating one-on-one time with each of my girls is not easy—but I make the effort to do so because I know it’s important. Our one-on-one time gives us focused time to talk, play, laugh, shop (my girls’ favorite), eat, or just be together. The longer I’m a parent, the more apparent it is that one-on-one time with my girls is vital. I appreciate the break from their sibling disagreements, but most of all, I value time just being with each daughter to let her know how loved, special, and important she is to me.

As I thought about that, God reminded me that he feels the same about spending time with his children. He values one-on-one time with each of us—not only because we have fewer sibling disagreements and distractions when we spend time with him, but because he values us and wants to let us know how loved, special, and important we are to him. This reminds me of Larnelle Harris’ song, “I Miss My Time with You” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39fXNDO6IJY>). God created us so he could be with us, and that’s what we celebrate at Christmas—Jesus came to be “God with us.” God is with us all the time and wherever we go, even when we are in large crowds. However, God loves for us to carve out “God time”—to go apart from others and be alone with God. I don’t know about you, but I think there’s something special knowing that the God of all creation longs to spend time with us. And of course, God loves it when we long to spend time with him. Jesus certainly modeled this; he made a habit of going off by himself for some alone time with God:

“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, NIV)

In the busyness of this (or any) season, we can easily get distracted and not carve out “God time.” If I let things crowd out my daily “God time,” I miss it... and I miss God. Life is challenging (to say the least), and I want and need time with God to comfort and encourage me, to challenge and stretch me, to guide and direct me, but most of all, just to love me and be with me (especially in the craziness of the world in which we’re living this year). But even more than I want to spend time with God, he wants to spend time with me! Do you realize how much God loves and longs to spend time with you? He does! This Christmas (and every day), why not give God what he wants most from you—you, your love, and time to just be with you! God misses his time with you!

PRAYER:

Loving Father and God of all creation, thank you for loving us so much that you want to spend time with us and came to be with us! Help me carve out time to be with you... so I realize how much you love me, so I grow to be more like you, and so others get to know you through me. Amen.