

CouplesInBloom.com – Noise-Free Intimacy

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Apostles Peter, James and John fell asleep when Jesus had just asked them to support Him in Gethsemane ⇒ Mark 14:32-40 and Luke 22:40-46. This is where Jesus was so distraught thinking about His upcoming crucifixion that blood broke through His skin like sweat. The literal Greek word used for *sleep* in this Scripture does not exclusively refer to physical sleep, but includes a personal sense of heaviness due to one's thoughts.

This is also when Jesus asked Peter (who had just told Jesus he would die with him) a pointed question, "Do you sleep? Were you not *strong* enough to watch **one hour**?" The word for *strong* here literally means *force / be able to* ⇒ Mark 14:37. Jesus asked Peter where that *strong* relationship with Him **was**... seeing that Peter **was** so easily distracted.

Although Luke 22:45 ⇒ says Peter's sleep was from sorrow, Jesus still found it **appropriate to ask the question**... and Jesus never spoke without having a good reason. Nevertheless Jesus, although in agony ⇒ Luke 22:44, maintains kindness to these friends who were embarrassed ⇒ Mark 14:40 and says, 'you might as well sleep now; there's no more time to pray.' ⇒ Mark 14:41. There are **big lessons** in **intimacy** in these Scriptures:

Lesson #1: Holy desire can be wrong: Jesus was crucified by His choice yet against His desire. It was God the Father's will for Jesus to pay for our sins ⇒ Isaiah 53; Jesus constantly chose God's will over His own desires ⇒ Luke 22:42, Mark 14:36, John 4:34 & 6:38; Jesus also chose to be crucified due to the relational joy / **intimacy** it would produce for eternity between us and the Father / Son / Holy Spirit ⇒ Hebrews 12:2.

Lesson #2: Noise is spiritual: until we get to Heaven, **intimacy** has an interfering enemy called **noise**. Overcoming it sometimes requires supernatural assistance ⇒ Luke 22:43. Negative noise subtly undermines **intimacy** ⇒ Proverbs 9:13-18. Positive noise is the fruit of **intimacy** and further exalts what is authentically good ⇒ Psalm 66:1-7.

Lesson #3: Make noise submit: Peter's obedience to noise was disobedience to Jesus. This was one of a series of tests that Peter failed; Gethsemane means oil press and this test pressed Peter to reveal what would come out of him... all for the ultimate goal of his discipleship and **intimacy** with God ⇒ Luke 22:32. God redeems failures for maturity.

Note Psalm 66:7 above ⇒ just said, "**Selah**" which translates, '**Stop and weigh this.**' **Selah** is pivotal to **noise**, **intimacy**, and **noise-free intimacy**. Noise is the addiction of this age and it destroys **intimacy**. Those who **stop and weigh** their life are those who are **free** from the damned foolishness that worldliness lives and dies for. Examples abound:

- Are you and your spouse exhilarated just being together, eye to eye – the longer the better, or do you need some kind of stuff / **noise** to have **intimacy**? **Stop and weigh**.
- Do you and the Holy Spirit alone often soar together in spiritual **intimacy**, or are you addicted to 'Christian' media / **noise**? **Stop and weigh** - **relationship** or **religiosity**?
- Do you regularly exult in the **freedom** of contentment in the different seasons of your life, or are you bound by materialistic dependencies / **noise**? **Stop and weigh**.

If you **stop and weigh** your life and discover you're in bondage, life-changing **freedom** is exclusively available through **intimacy** with God's Holy Spirit. Talk to Him now! ♥