



Practicing the way of Jesus

Be with Jesus

Practicing the way – Be with Jesus

John 1:35-39, 43-45

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

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³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him.

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John 14:16-18, 25-27

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

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²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

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“The first and primary goal of apprenticeship to Jesus is learning to live in a constant state of awareness of and connection to the Holy Spirit” – *John Mark Comer*

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John 15:1-8

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

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Remain

Greek: Μένω (menó)

Meaning: to stay, abide, remain

Idea: to stay at home in

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John 15:1-8

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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← Branches



← Vine
↓

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Remain

Greek: Μένω (menó)

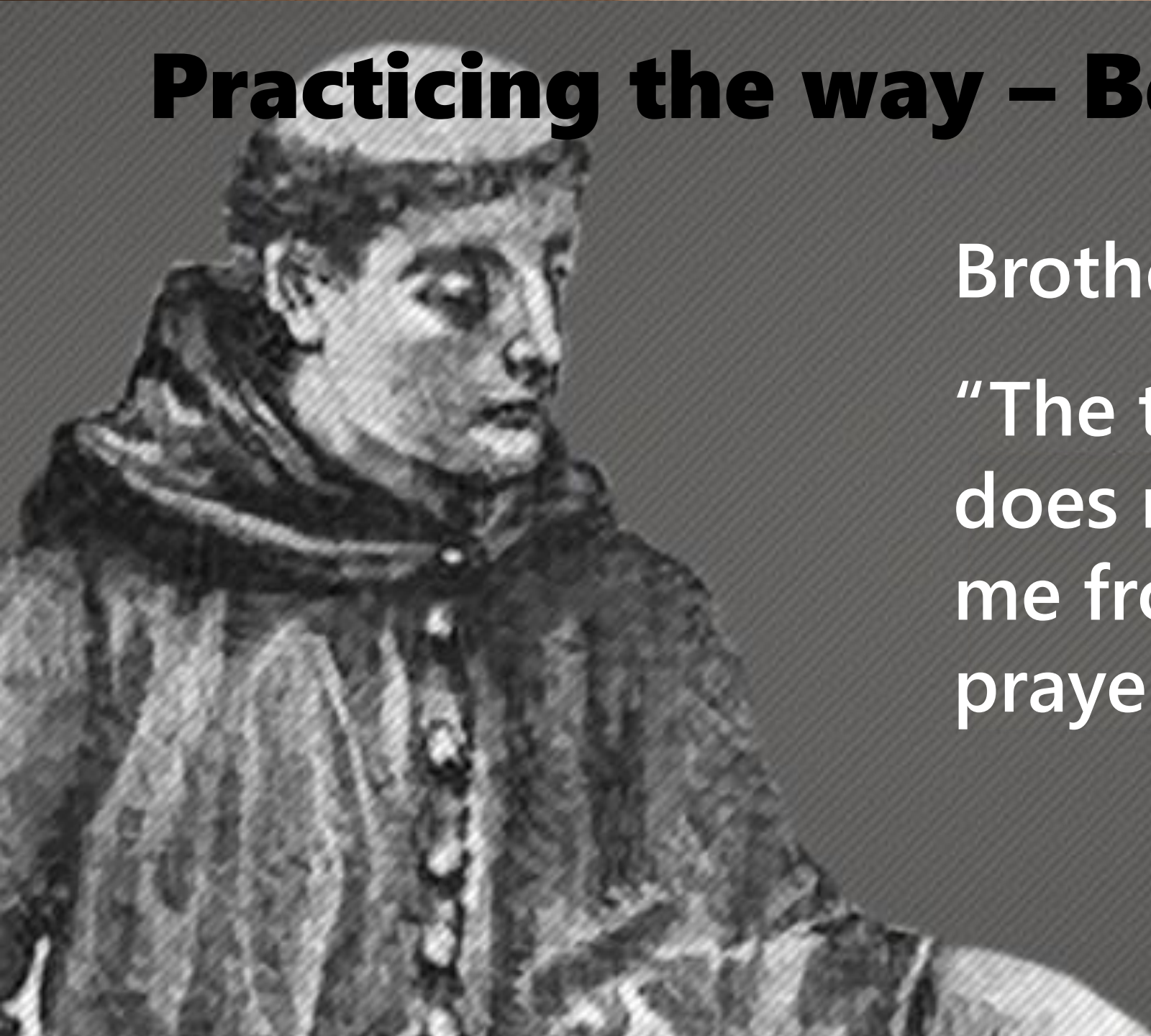
Meaning: to stay, abide, remain

Used 10 times in this passage!

Jesus message: centre yourself in the Father's presence all day long

Learn to always be in two places at once

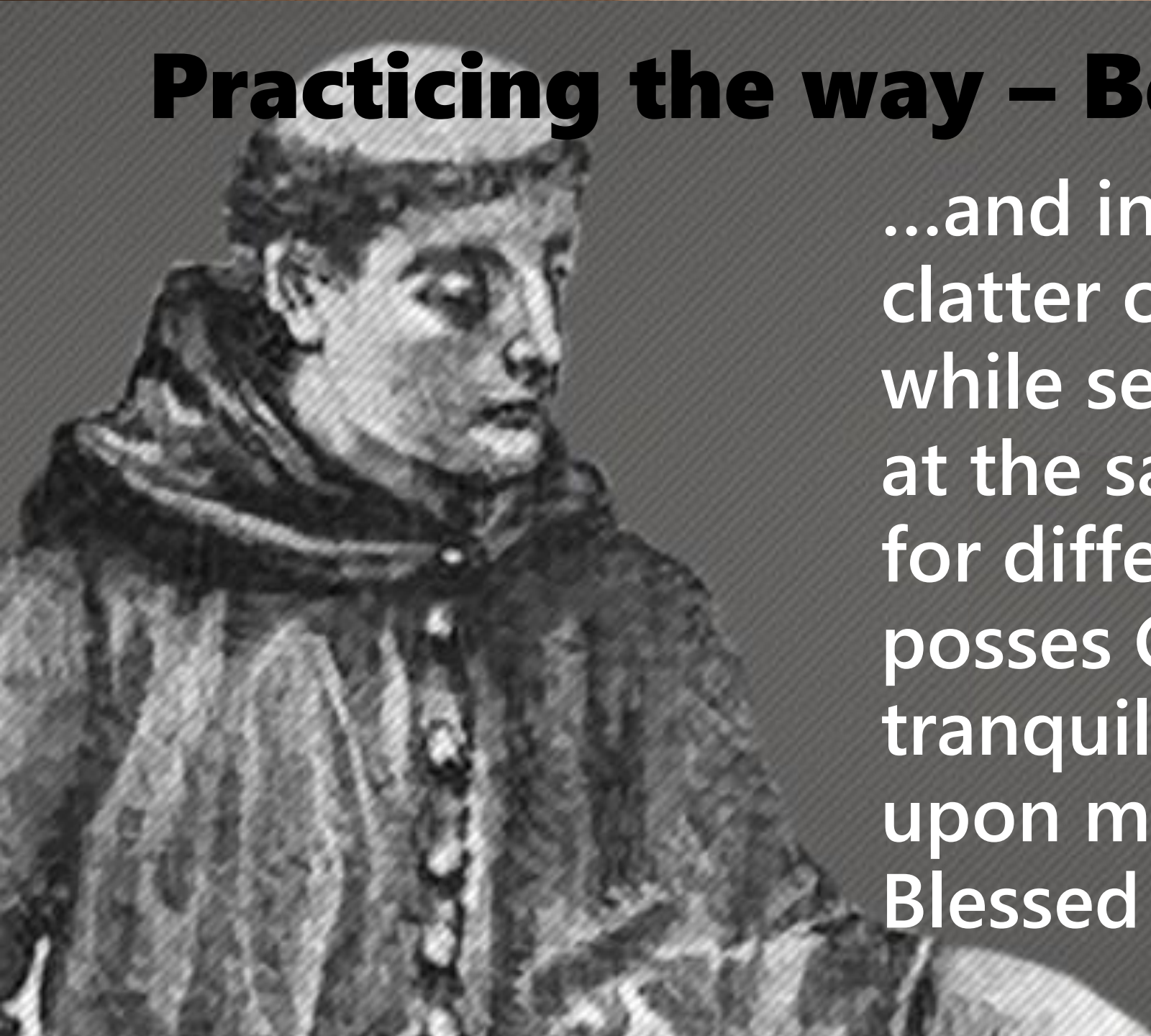
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Brother Lawrence:

“The time of business
does not differ with
me from the time of
prayer...”

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...and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquillity as if I were upon my knees before the Blessed Sacrament."

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“The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds... this is the fundamental secret of caring for our souls. Our part in this practicing the presence of God is to direct and redirect our minds constantly to Him. In the early time of our “practicing” we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God...

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But these are habits - not the law of gravity - and can be broken. A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings.”

– *Dallas Willard*

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“It is unlikely that we will deepen our relationship with God in a casual or haphazard manner. There will be a need for some intentional commitment and some reorganisation in our own lives. But there is nothing that will enrich our lives more than a deeper and clearer perception of God’s presence in the routine of daily living.”

– *William Paulsell*

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The practices of Jesus (spiritual disciplines)

- *Silence & solitude*
- *Hearing Scripture*
- *Prayer*
- *Fasting*
- *Sabbath*
- *Celebration*
- ...

“These are whole person endeavours to orient all of your life around the reality that is God”

- *John Mark Comer*

They are means to and end
- to be with Jesus!

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Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- v16, “So I say, walk by the Spirit”
- v25, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit”

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“Your system
is perfectly
designed to
get the results
you are
getting”

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Matthew 11:28-29

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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“The general human failing is to want what is right and important, but at the same time not to commit to the kind of life that will produce the action we know to be right and the condition that we want to enjoy.

This is the feature of human character that explains why the road to hell is paved with good intentions. We intend what is right but we avoid the life that would make it a reality.”

– *Dallas Willard*

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Long term

- Simplify your life down to what really matters and add in the practices of Jesus

Short term

- Join a small group!
- Set aside a little time each day for silence and solitude (if you're not doing this already)



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