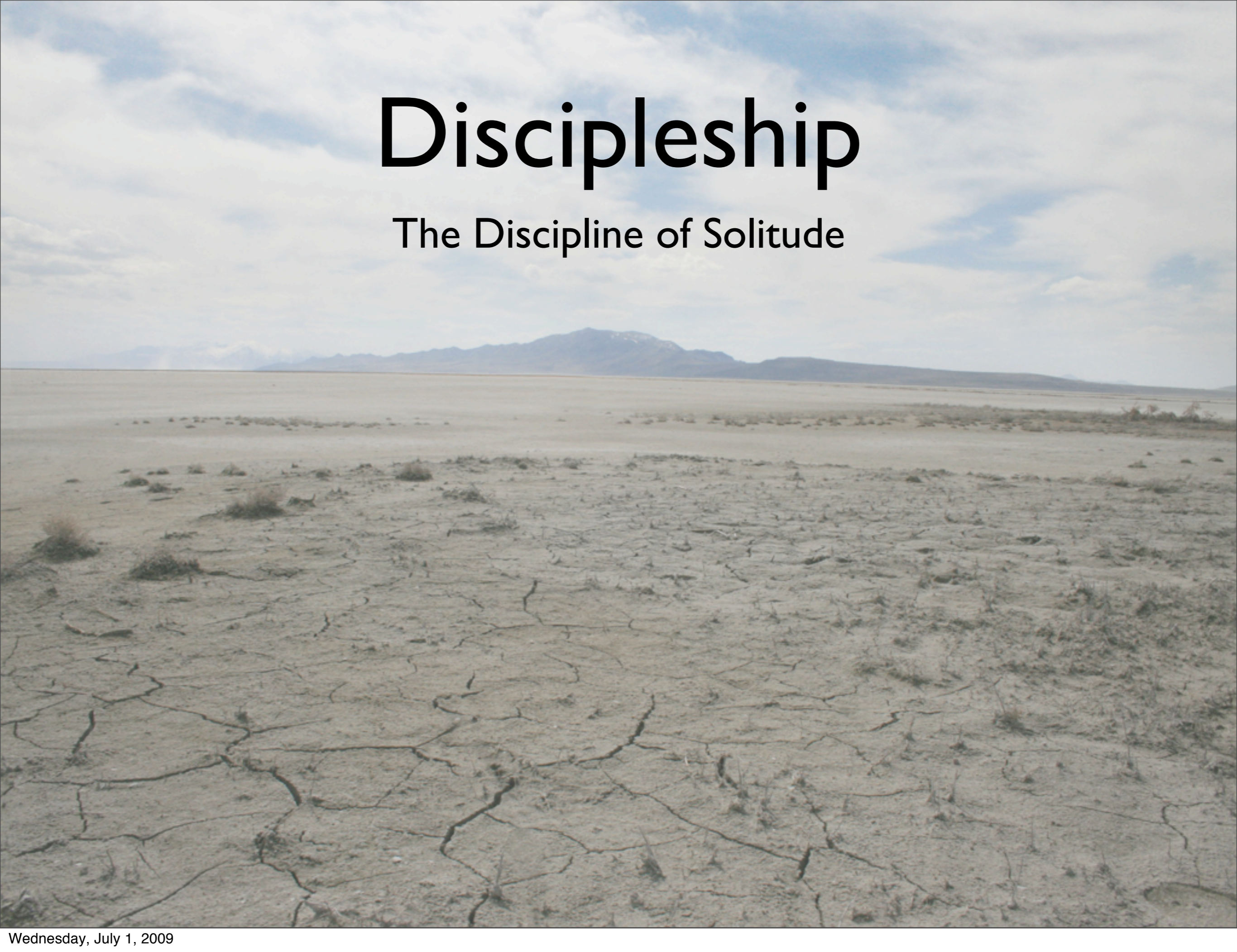


# Discipleship

The Discipline of Solitude







**Discipleship is learning from Jesus how to be like Jesus.**

**It is the essence of Christianity and therefore not optional for one who calls their self a Christian.**





Discipleship is learning from Jesus how to be like Jesus.

- It is not enough to say, “Here’s what Jesus taught, now do it.”
- We must say, “Here’s what Jesus taught, here’s how he did it, now do it.”





Jesus' life was completely characterized by his relationship with the Father.


Attempting to do what Jesus taught apart from a deeply personal and transformative relationship with the Father (how he did it) is futile.



# Discipline of Solitude

- What is solitude?
- Why did Jesus practice the discipline of solitude?
- Why should I practice the discipline of solitude?



A wide-angle photograph of a desolate, arid landscape. The foreground is dominated by a vast expanse of cracked, dry earth, with numerous irregular polygonal cracks forming a mosaic pattern. Sparse, low-lying, scrubby vegetation is scattered across the terrain. In the middle ground, a flat, light-colored plain extends to the horizon. In the far distance, a range of low, hazy mountains or hills is visible under a sky filled with soft, white and light blue clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of extreme isolation and dryness.

**What is solitude?**



# Solitude is not...

It is helpful to define solitude, first, by recognizing what it is not...



# Solitude is not...

It is helpful to define solitude, first, by recognizing what it is not...

- Solitude is not to be equated with privacy.



# Solitude is not...

It is helpful to define solitude, first, by recognizing what it is not...

- Solitude is not to be equated with privacy.
- Solitude is not to be equated with simply 'taking a break from you life' (mini-vacation by yourself).



# Solitude is...

Solitude is part of having a deeply personal and transformative relationship with the Father.

It is being alone with God for the purpose of deepening your love for him and others.



A wide-angle photograph of a desolate, cracked desert landscape. The foreground is filled with a network of dry, polygonal cracks in the earth. The middle ground shows a flat, sandy plain extending to a distant horizon. In the background, a range of low mountains or hills is visible under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall tone is muted and somber, emphasizing isolation and hardship.

**Why did Jesus practice the discipline of solitude?**



# Solitude & Jesus





# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew 4:1
- Matthew 14:23



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1
- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1
- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 4:42



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1
- Luke 5:16
- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 4:42



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1
- Luke 5:16
- Matthew 14:23
- Luke 6:12
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 4:42



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1
- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 4:42
- Luke 5:16
- Luke 6:12
- John 6:15



# Solitude & Jesus

- Matthew. 4:1
- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 4:42
- Luke 5:16
- Luke 6:12
- John 6:15
- Luke 22:39



# Solitude & Jesus

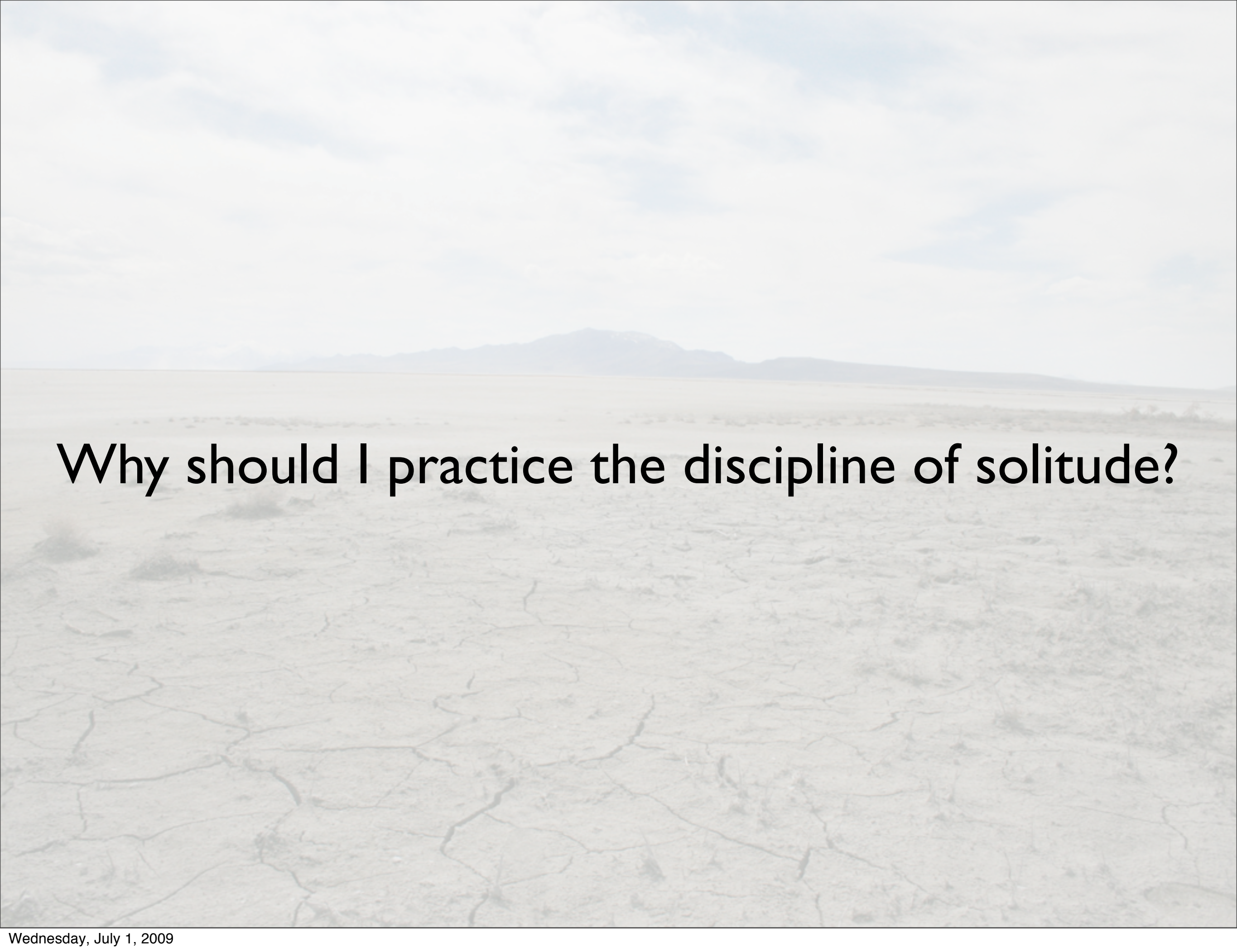
Jesus practiced solitude as a means to his own deeply personal and transformative relationship with his Father.



# Solitude & Jesus

**“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” -- John 6:38**



A wide-angle photograph of a desolate, arid landscape. The foreground is dominated by a vast expanse of cracked, dry earth, with numerous irregular polygonal cracks forming a mosaic pattern. The ground is a light tan or beige color. In the middle ground, the terrain remains flat and cracked, with some sparse, low-lying, scrubby vegetation scattered across it. In the far distance, a range of low, hazy mountains or hills stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky filled with soft, diffused light and light-colored clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of extreme isolation and dryness.

**Why should I practice the discipline of solitude?**



# Solitude & Disciples





# Solitude & Disciples

- Solitude deepens my relationship with God.



# Solitude & Disciples

- Solitude deepens my relationship with God.
- Solitude transforms my relationship with myself and with others.



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- Solitude deepens my relationship with God.
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- Self -- I gain a proper perspective of myself in light of God.



# Solitude & Disciples

- Solitude deepens my relationship with God.
- Solitude transforms my relationship with myself and with others.
- Self -- I gain a proper perspective of myself in light of God.
- Others -- I gain a proper perspective of others in light of God & Self.



# In your life...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your life...



# In your life...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your life...

- How can I begin to practice the discipline of solitude everyday?



# In your life...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your life...

- How can I begin to practice the discipline of solitude everyday?
- What habits will I need to change in order to regularly practice solitude?



# In your life...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your life...

- How can I begin to practice the discipline of solitude everyday?
- What habits will I need to change in order to regularly practice solitude?
- What is my motivation for wanting to practice the discipline of solitude?



# In your community...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your community...



# In your community...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your community...

- How does neglecting the discipline of solitude affect your community?



# In your community...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your community...

- How does neglecting the discipline of solitude affect your community?
- What keeps me from regularly practicing the discipline of solitude?



# In your community...

Over the next two weeks, wrestle with the following questions in your community...

- How does neglecting the discipline of solitude affect your community?
- What keeps me from regularly practicing the discipline of solitude?
- How can you as a community encourage one another in the discipline of solitude?