**Christ is busy**

Catharine Marshall wrote A Man Called Peter. Peter died aged 46 from heart attack – overwork? Profound effect on me – also called Peter. Should I be like him? Was he a good role model for ministry?

+ did what he believed God called him to do, worked hard, selfless

- my supervisor would say he had little self-care, burned himself out, neglected family?

How does this compare with Jesus? He was all +, some -. See Mark 1.29-34.

What drove Jesus? Protestant Work Ethic? Self-loathing?

People came to him – Mk 6.34: **they were like sheep without a shepherd**.
Continually pestered. (eg 1.37: **and when they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you”**)

Had Jesus not learned to say ‘no’? Mark’s gospel portrays Jesus as an action man. It would be easy to show Jesus as being a workaholic, and so demand more effort. But is this the whole picture?

Pillars of the Earth and World Without End are novels about a medieval town dominated by monks. They devoted themselves to prayer. What a contrast! How could they justify it? Copied today by Christian groups living together away from civilisation. Would Jesus say to them *“Get out there and do something”*?

Which model of Xn life attracts you more? Being busy for God, or being still before God? Your answer might be different today, from years ago, or in a few years’ time. Is one right, the other wrong?

Is not our relationship with God like breathing? Times of action, periods of rest.

NB Mk 1.35. Jesus sought time alone with God (see also Mk 6.31: **Let’s go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while,** Mk 6.46: **after saying goodbye to the people he went away to a hill to pray,** Mk 7.24: **he went into a house and did not want anyone to know he was there,** Mk 9.2: **Jesus led them up a high mountain, where they were alone,** Mk 14.32-42 - Gethsemane)

This means that we too need time away from busyness.

What is important is that whether busy or resting we do so with Christ, so that we can model him in all we do. True for individuals and as a church. Hence Working Bees *and* Quiet Days. This gives us true purpose, true employment, true rest, true growth.