



# Charting the Course:

a devotion by Chuck Hall

## TIME OUT WITH GOD

I am on a personal prayer retreat at the Haven River Inn in Comfort, Texas. It's a bed and breakfast in the heart of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. I came alone to get away with God for a couple of days. Although it is our thirty-eighth wedding anniversary, my wife Mary Nell gave me her blessing to come. In fact she encouraged me to come.

We both came here about two years ago, seeking peace and rest, a time to hear from God. I didn't get much out of it. I was like a wild animal locked in a cage. There was no TV, nothing to do; I couldn't settle down. I had too much on my mind, too much work to do back at the office. It seemed that time alone with God was just another thing on my to-do list. I ended up going with Mary Nell to every antique store in Comfort. It was not good.

This time is different. I wanted to come. I was looking forward to it. I had felt for weeks that I should get alone with God. Mary Nell and I talked about it and agreed that I would do it. Sunday morning before church, I wrote myself a note to find the phone number of the bed and breakfast and make a reservation. When I arrived at church on Sunday, one of the first to speak to me was Becky Brandenburger, who knew nothing of my desire to get away. She asked if I had heard of the Haven River Inn in Comfort. She said that she and her husband had just returned from there and thought that I might like to go. "Here is their card," she said, "with the address and phone number of the inn if you would like to go." CONFIRMATION!! God wants me to go! So, here I am.

Many times Jesus and his disciples went away together to be alone and rest. One such occasion occurred when the disciples returned from their first missionary tour. Jesus had sent them out with great power to preach the gospel. They cast out demons and healed many sick people. There was so much ministry they didn't even have time to eat. They came back tired, but excited. They wanted to tell Jesus everything. Then they heard the terrible news: John the Baptist had been killed. Herod had cut off his head. That is when Jesus said to His disciples, **"Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile"**(Mk. 6:31 NLT).

We all need to go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile. I know I needed to. It has been a great time for me. I have been reading and praying through the Bible, listening to God, and resting. I've enjoyed walking along the river, thanking God for the beauty of the Texas Hill Country. The Lord has been near to me. I have been filled with His peace and assurance.

I found a quiet place in Comfort, Texas to be alone with God, and He has comforted me. If you will come aside with Him, He'll do the same for you.