

## "Desire to Walk with God"

*Genesis 3:8-24; 5:21-24; 6:5-13*

"Let's go for a walk or a hike."

How many times have you said that to someone in your lifetime? To your spouse, child, friend? Going for a walk with someone presumes there's a relationship of some kind with that person. When you go for a walk you will talk. Sometimes you laugh, other times you might share concerns or frustrations you have with someone else or something troubling you in your life. Sometimes you pray together. The main point of walking with someone is you are with them and growing in your relationship.

There's usually a goal in your walk, hike, even if it's around the block or to exercise or a specific destination. It's always beneficial whether it's exercise, building a relationship or reaching a goal. Often someone is leading the other or takes the initiative on the walk or hike. If we can understand the reasons and benefits of why we walk with people then I think we can apply these things to our walk with God. Because God uses that very language in our relationship with Him. So this is what our theme is for 2026, walking with God.

The opening pages of our Bibles describe God's relationship with the very first humans on earth. Before we start in Genesis 3 I want to jump ahead to Genesis 5. Here in Genesis 5 we are given an "exciting" can't-put-the-page-down genealogy starting with Adam. The purpose of the genealogy is not to give everyone's name from Ada to Noah but the first-born sons. The overriding purpose of the genealogy is to show that because of Adam and Eve's sin everyone physically . dies. But in vv.18-24 we see a break in the pattern:

*Gen. 5:18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. <sup>19</sup> And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died. <sup>21</sup> When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. <sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*

What's fascinating here is that Moses (the author) doesn't explain what walking with God means. He assumes the reader knows what Enoch did with God. Where would the reader get that knowledge? From God's example in Genesis 3.

In this very familiar account of Adam and Eve's fall, we often miss learning about the character of God. God created Adam and Eve in His image. While that has many implications, the most important one is that unlike the animals, Adam, Eve and God can relate to one another at a personal level. After we read about God the Creator in Genesis 1-2, we start to see what God is like in Ch.3. After Satan tempted Eve and Adam to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil – the only thing God said not to do – we read in v.8,

*<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

God is walking. Why? Because He wants to spend time with Adam and Eve. This what we learn about God:

## **God Wants to Walk with Us** **(3:8-24)**

The words “*was walking*” implies a habitual practice. “Cool of the day” is literally ‘wind of the day’, when the wind is cooling things down, which could be the morning or the evening, or both. God continually came walking to spend time with Adam and Eve. This time, however, Adam and Eve are not there. Does God know everything? Of course. Does He know Adam and Eve have sinned? Yes. Yet He still comes looking to walk with them. But isn’t God a big meany who waits to zap us when we sin? That’s not what the Bible teaches, and that’s not how God relates to the very first people He created, even after they did the one thing He told them not to do.

### ***God initiates a relationship with us (v.8)***

*John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The Bible teaches that God wants a relationship with people – even sinners (since that’s the only kind of people there are – that He willingly sacrificed His Son for our sins even though many do not accept His invitation to walk with Him. What do we see here in Genesis 3? Do we see a tough God or a tender God? A tender God who

### ***Comes looking for us when we failed Him (vv.9-14)***

Notice how God doesn’t condemn Adam and Eve but rather He wants to have a chat with them and wants to draw out a confession from them. He asks Adam, ‘Where are you?’, implying why aren’t you here, why aren’t we walking together where I can see how you are doing, remind you of my commands, hear your concerns, etc.

Doesn’t God essentially say the same thing to us at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day? *‘Where are you? I was here, waiting for you to walk with me and learn from Me and talk to Me. I’ll stop by again tomorrow to see how you are doing. Can we go for a walk tomorrow? There are some things I need to remind you of in My word. You haven’t talked to e in awhile and you’re trying to hard to solve all your problems without Me. Let’s go for a walk.’*

Adam speaks from his hiding place and doesn’t answer God’s questions but rather tells God he’s afraid sine he’s naked. See the mistake Adam makes that we all make when we sin? We cower in fear and avoid God rather than run to Him and confess. We try to fix our sin our way but fig leaves didn’t work then and don’t work now. Again, God doesn’t condemn Adam but asks ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree which I commanded not to eat?’

God was still giving Adam the opportunity to confess his sin rather than condemn him. Then a similar question to Eve, again trying to draw out their confession. But God does condemn someone. Who does He judge? The serpent. He will die one day to pay for His sin. Adam and Eve will die eventually and they will lose out on the blessing obedience brings, but God also makes the appropriate clothing from an animal that He sacrifices and shields them from the tree of knowledge so they won’t stay in their sinful state forever.

### ***God makes a way we can be right with Him (vv.15-24)***

So, this is what the reader already learns about God. He wants to walk with us, where we will listen to what He says (Scripture), obey the commands we need to obey today and talk about any sins we've committed through prayer. God leads. He's taking us in a good direction – conformity to his Son Jesus – and He won't give up on us.

*Rom. 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

*Phil. 1:4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

We've learned that God is good in spite of our sin and wants to walk with us and continue to work on our relationship, but He doesn't force Himself on us. Now as we come to Enoch in Ch.5 we also learn that

## **God Wants to Bless Us When We Walk with Him** **(5:21-24)**

Enoch stands out because everyone in this list died but of Enoch we are told,

*<sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*

I think it's safe to assume that being 'taken away' was not death because why not just repeat what happened to him like everyone else. And secondly, this taking away happened early in his life compared to all the rest, who lived around 900 years each, since he only lived 365 years. And we are told that he was taken away immediately after we were told the second time that he walked with God. Whether it was an Elijah type experience or he simply disappeared like the future 'being caught up' describes our being removed from the earth before the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel. The how is not important but the fact that it happened is. And when we read how wicked the world was becoming in Gen. 6 I look at his premature homegoing as a reward from God for walking faithfully with God. What is the reward of a believer's death? Entrance into the presence of God.

What did we receive as our reward when we confessed to God that we were sinners separated from Him and placed our faith in Jesus Christ? A relationship with God.

*Eph. 2:11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— <sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*

*Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

The blessing of knowing God through Jesus and walking with God daily is the assurance of His presence in our life; now, even when trials happen; and of course when this life ends when we enter into the very presence of God. So don't take your relationship with God for granted. Walk with Him every day. When we come to Noah we learn that

## **Walking With God Sets Us Apart from the World** **(Gen. 6:5-13)**

Noah's faith stands out from the world's around him. That's how Moses writes in Genesis 6,

*<sup>5</sup> The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup> The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. <sup>7</sup> So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God*

In spite of God reaching out to mankind, we see sin is rampant early on.

### ***The world disappoints God (vv.5-7)***

He is grieved; His heart was filled with pain because every inclination of man's heart was evil all the time. Wow.

As much as we know many in the world are not much better today, I don't think we think about how God feels about this. Man's rebellious nature grieves God and we need to be grieved as well so that we have a greater burden to see them saved. We are so blessed to be saved, to be favoured like Noah.

"But Noah ..." stands out from the culture around him, as should all of us who have a relationship with God. When we are walking with God we should stand apart because we live differently and for a greater purpose, God's glory. Noah reminds us

### ***Walking with God brings His favour (vv.8-9)***

The Hebrew word for favour is grace. God showed grace to Noah and his family and spared them from His judgment on the earth. God's grace shields us from His wrath and results in blessings we don't deserve.

*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*

I'm going to talk more about what blameless means next week when we look at Abraham but these are the qualities in His people that should result from walking with God. When we listen to God, follow His leading and accept His gentle rebukes, we turn to Him not away from Him and want to please Him with our life. And notice what results from walking with God?

### ***Walking with God opens our minds to God's plan (vv.10-13)***

God tells Noah what He's going to do to the world around them. Noah is part of God's rescue plan to save the righteous. And knowing God's plan, Noah warned people as Peter called him a 'preacher of righteousness' (2 Pet. 2:5). When we're walking with God regularly, we get to know His

heart and His will. We will develop His burden for the lost. We will see the world as He sees it and we will understand it more based on the knowledge we have about how God works now and will work in the future.

One of the greatest blessings but also one the heaviest burdens is knowing what's going to happen in the future. We know what happens to people who don't accept Christ. We know that this world will not go on forever. When people look at this world and shake their heads and wonder why it is the way it is, we know. We know God's wrath is being held back but a day is coming as Peter also says in 2 Peter 3, talking about the flood in Noah's day,

*2 Pet. 3:6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

When we walk with each other we talk. Our relationship gets stronger. We learn more about each other. We see things about the other person that we didn't fully understand before. This is what happens when we walk with God consistently. We listen to Him in His Word. We understand Him better. We open up to Him about our concerns. We trust Him more as we let Him lead us.

We'll be exploring this theme for the next month and off and on throughout the year. God is waiting for us to join Him in our walk. He has truths we need to hear. He wants to hear us talk to Him. He shows up every day. He's going to ask, 'Where are you?' And I pray our answer is "right here" or at least, "I'm coming Lord."

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If you have any comments or questions about this message, please  
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