

Mission Revisited Part 2: WALKING WITH GOD

→ *What would you say was the current health of your walk with God? Can you remember a time in the past when it was particularly intimate & dynamic? What were the factors in place at that time that made it so close?*

3 Loaded Charismatic Words

WALKING implies motion, action, direction: PROGRESS & PURPOSE.

WITH implies relationship, partnership, fellowship: CLOSENESS & INTIMACY

GOD implies submission, order, worship: PRIORITY & ALIGNMENT.

How would you personally answer the 5 probing questions?

- i) *Do you, by default / habit, walk with Lord or are you inclined to go it alone?*
- ii) *In general, do you sense God close or does He seem distant?*
- iii) *Are you walking with God or trying to get God to walk with you?*
- iv) *What's your expectation? When you hear the words 'Walking with God,' what picture does that conjure up in your mind?*
- v) *Do you understand the huge benefits walking with God brings?*

JESUS' MODEL: 4 things we learn directly from Jesus

1. We know Jesus had active, consistent PRAYER LIFE (Luke 5:16).
2. Jesus had intimate KNOWLEDGE of SCRIPTURE.
3. Jesus was always looking to JUMP ON BOARD with what the FATHER was DOING (John 5:19-20).
4. Jesus had a DEPENDENCY RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:37-38, Luke 4:1,18).

→ *What else can we learn from Jesus' example about dynamically walking with God? What about from other significant biblical characters?*

3 PREPOSITIONS that go with the verb 'walk'

1. Walking WITH God

- * Words like companionship, intimacy, connection, dialogue.
- * i.e. Is God INCLUDED? Are you walking TOGETHER?
- * The gift of the PARACLETE lifts our walk with God to ANOTHER LEVEL (John 14:16-17, Rom 8:14).
- * Fellowship with the Holy Spirit doesn't happen BY ACCIDENT ... It must be FED & NURTURED (James 4:8).
- * What you don't FEED eventually DIES, or at least becomes WEAK, UNHEALTHY & POWERLESS.

→ *How does the Holy Spirit elevate our walk with God onto higher levels?*

→ *How does one 'feed' & 'nurture' that relationship?*

- * God INVITES us to walk with Him, but doesn't IMPOSE Himself on us. He even ALLOWS us to WALK AWAY.
- * We have an inbuilt tendency to WANDER & God doesn't keep us ON A LEASH.

- * He longs for us to TRUST Him & walk CLOSE. Much of His activity in your life is about creating that SAME LONGING in you.

→ *How does freewill play into the way God relates to us & how He 'gets us' to walk with Him?*

→ *Do you have a tendency to wander? Why & how?*

→ *What does God do or perhaps allow in your life in an attempt to promote in you the same longing for closeness with Him that He has for you?*

3 QUESTIONS:

- i) What are you doing to NURTURE your walk?
 - ii) What sort of obstacles JEOPARDISE your walk?
 - iii) Does God have your unreserved, unqualified INVITATION?
- *How would you answer those three questions?*

2. Walking UNDER God

- * Words like order, lordship, submission.
- * i.e. Is everything PROPERLY ALIGNED?
- * Danger: You are functionally your OWN Lord & expecting God to conform to YOUR will, priorities & preferences.

→ *What does 'upside-down' look like? What about the right way up?*

Submission is the Key to so many Good Things

- a) Without submission, there will be DISORDER.
- b) Without it, PEACE will be elusive (Job 22:21).
- c) Without it, there always be a sense of FRICTION (James 4:6-8).
- d) Without it, there will be no kingdom AUTHORITY (Matt 8:9).

→ *Why is 'submission' such a 'dirty word in the C21st? How does a lack of a willingness to submit to anyone or anything manifest & what are the potential consequence to society?*

→ *What are the dangers for us of resisting rather than submitting to God? What does resisting God look like? What about submitting?*

3. Walking BEHIND God

- * Words like leadership, deference, kingdom agenda.
- * i.e. WHO is following WHOM? (Eph 5:1-2)
- * Trap: We inadvertently expect God to follow BEHIND US picking up the pieces, reducing God's primary role to DAMAGE CONTROL.
- * Don't expect God to follow YOU & assume He's going to be HAPPY with that (Luke 9:23, 2 Cor 5:7, Gal 5:16, Eph 5:2).

→ *On a scale of 0 to 10, to what degree would you say you have given Jesus lordship in your life? What evidence is there to the people around you that Jesus is Lord of your life?*

→ *Why is it tempting to try to get the Lord to follow us? How does that fit with a C21st mindset? How does doing that potentially distort our relationship with Him; how does it contradict Jesus' teaching & example?*