

Walking With God.

Text: Gen 5:21-24

Suggested Hymns:

387, 361, 170, 346

- 1) In Prestige
- 2) In Protection
- 3) In Behaviour
- 4) In Reward

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is Genesis 5:21–24, ²¹ *Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.* ²² *After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.* ²³ *So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.* ²⁴ *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.* (NKJV)

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Very little is known about the life of Enoch. There are chapters and pages devoted to the account of Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, and other characters of the Bible. But only a few verses are used to tell the story of Enoch. Of his life and character we have only a brief picture, a “*flash on the screen,*” as it were, on the pages of Holy Scripture.

Jude says that he was the seventh from Adam who prophesied the final coming of the Lord “*to execute judgment on all.*”¹

Luke lists him in the genealogy of Jesus as one of the human ancestors of our Saviour, placing his name as the seventh from Adam.²

The writer of the book to the Hebrews gives him a position among the great heroes of the faith. He says: “⁶⁵*By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”;* for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”³

Outside these brief references nothing is known about Enoch except the words of our text.

But what a life it was! Enoch walked with God. He pleased God. He was a hero of the faith. He prophesied of Jesus Christ and of His coming judgement. **“And he was not, for God took him.”** He did not see death. He was one of the few men who, like Elijah, without waiting for the future resurrection, passed directly into heaven.

What an inspiration! — Enoch, the man who walked with God! What an inspiration for us! Here was a good friend and close associate of God Himself. He walked with God - He pleased God - And God took him. Certainly, there must be some connection between these brief expressions. Although the life of Enoch is recorded in a few words, it is surprising how much it teaches.

Let us, therefore, direct our attention today to the thought: *What It Means to Walk with God.* May the Lord bless our meditation.

1. In Prestige

Enoch walked with God. — It means something *in* prestige to walk with God. Enoch lived a few generations before the flood. In fact, he was the great-grandfather of Noah. Methuselah, who became the world’s oldest man, was his son.

When Enoch lived, Adam was still alive. Enoch was 317 years old when Adam died. And so it can be said that Enoch walked with Adam.

He had a chance to talk to Adam and secure full information on everything from the beginning of the world. What an honour!

Certainly, it must have been considered a privilege to live in an age when so many of the patriarchs were still alive. Something like the feeling which a few old people still have in our age who are proud of the fact that they saw the Queen in real life.

But Enoch, he walked with God. To be acquainted with Adam and Eve, and to live as next-door neighbours to Seth and Enosh, is as nothing compared to the statement: **“And Enoch walked with God.”** The expression used is that of familiar association. He was a close friend and an intimate associate of God.

Associated with the “great.” — We all like to be on familiar terms with prominent people. Some may be proud to remember that they once worked

together with some prominent man. Herod liked to be called the friend of Caesar Augustus.

Many years ago a man and his son went to Greenfield Village. Just as they were entering one building, they happened to meet Mr. Henry Ford walking out. The father was so “enthused” about this rare opportunity that he mustered sufficient courage to ask Mr. Ford if he would kindly pause for a moment while he took his picture standing beside his son. Mr. Ford said: “*Go ahead!*”

This is only a small incident, but most likely it is one which the boy will never forget: He will probably even tell his grandchildren about the time when he had his picture taken with Henry Ford.

Walking with God. — And now, why should people be so eager to be associated with prominent people, who are, after all, only people like you and me, even if they happen to be a King or Queen, a President or Prime Minister of a country, — but then are so slow at grasping the greatest opportunity, namely, that of being associated with God, of walking with God?

Enoch took advantage of his wonderful opportunity and walked with God.

As Christians we can also have the honour and actually do enjoy the privilege of walking with God. What more intimate association can be imagined than to be called and actually to be a child of God and a member of the family of Christ?

Already by Holy Baptism we have been received into communion with the Triune God. Talk about being associated with prominent people! As Christians we are prominent ourselves, more prominent than all the dignitaries of the past or those who happen to be celebrities today.

A Christian need not feel that he is lacking in prestige or social standing just because he is not sitting at the first table with the famous or powerful in the world; certainly not, when he reminds himself that by faith he is walking with, on intimate relations with, and sitting at the table of God!

2. In Protection

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. The Shepherd protects. We all know Psalm 23.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. To walk with God is not only an honour, or a distinction, it is a protection. Enoch walked

with God. That means he was perfectly safe. There was no reason for him to fear. He *walked with God!* And why should he be afraid? Almighty God who is all-powerful was walking by his side.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.” That is what another man said who walked with God — David. He walked. He did not have to run. ***“For You are with me,”*** and we read in Romans 8:31, ***If God is for us, who can be against us?***

“I will fear no evil; For You are with me.” — What a comforting thought: Walking with God! ***“I will fear no evil; For You are with me.”***

Do you remember when you were children how you used to be afraid to walk home at night in the dark? Maybe past a cemetery, over a railway line, down a hill, and through a clump of trees?

To tell the truth, you did not walk, you ran! Maybe you would even whistle and make the night air ring with sounds. But that was not because you were in high spirits, but because you were afraid. You would run until you arrived breathlessly within the sight of the wonderful lights of home.

And then, a few nights later, you would go over the same stretch again when it was dark, pitch dark, and did not even run. You walked — slowly; and talked — cheerfully; and were not a bit afraid. And why? Because father and mother were with you.

“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” — Certainly, a picture of Christian life ***“I will fear no evil; For You are with me.”*** Walking with God. That is protection. Christ is with us in His Word. ***“And, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”***⁴

And when Christ is with us, it is not dark. And there is no reason for fear. We read in Isaiah 28:16 that ***Whoever believes will not act hastily.*** He can walk with Christ — slowly, safely, and certainly — to life everlasting.

The hymnist wrote

Though in the paths of death I tread⁵
With gloomy horrors overspread,
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,
For Thou, O Lord, art with me still;

Thy friendly staff shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.

“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Our Saviour, who lived and died for us, guides us by His Word. In His hands we are safe. May we always be found walking at His side.

We sang before,

Let us ever walk with Jesus,⁶
Follow His example pure,
Flee the world that would deceive us,
In temptation’s hour endure.
Ever in His footsteps treading,
Dwelling here, yet hearts above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Saviour, lead, I follow Thee.

3. In Behaviour

Keeping in step with God. — To walk with God is not only an honour, a protection, but it also imposes duties. It means keeping in step with God. The prophet Amos says: ***“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”***⁷ And therefore, walking with God means walking in the ways of God.

We are told that the name of Enoch means *“consecrated.”* In a wicked age we have a wonderful picture of consecration in Enoch’s act of walking with God.

Then, as now, it was an age of God-forgetfulness. People refused to be led and guided by the Spirit of God. It seemed as if they said: *“Let God, that is, if there is one, run things in heaven, while we try to get along down here.”* The Lord Himself complained, as written in Genesis 6:3, ***“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh.*** Yet, Enoch walked with God.

Then, as now, there was an age of immorality and abandonment to the sins of the flesh. We are told that ***“the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.”***⁸ They did as they pleased. But Enoch, he walked with God.

Then, as now, civilisation was based upon the arts and sciences. In the preceding chapter we read about the building of cities, of the introduction of music and the fine arts, the building of harps and organs, of works in iron and brass. But we also read about violence, polygamy, and murder. Yet Enoch walked with God.

Altogether, then, as now, it was a wicked age. ***“The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”***⁹ ***“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.”***¹⁰ Still, Enoch walked with God.

Walking in the sight of God. — Thus, walking with God means that we keep ourselves pure in this wicked world. The Word still applies which the Lord spoke to Abraham: ***“I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.”***¹¹

Walking with God means walking in His sight who hears and sees all things. Also in our age of moral corruption we should always remind ourselves of the word of Joseph: ***“How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”***¹²

Walking in the sight of others. — Walking with God also means walking in the sight of others. When a person has become prominent, he must always be very careful. There are people who watch every move he makes. Now, as Christians we have become prominent, because we are walking with God.

The fact that we have become close friends and associates of God, yes, the sons and daughters of God, must reflect itself in our lives and general behaviour. The Prime Minister’s children must behave themselves, for otherwise they will disgrace the Prime Minister.

God’s name should not be profaned or dishonoured among us. Always keep in mind what and who you are! Remember, you are walking with God! ***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”***¹³

4. In Reward

Enoch pleased God. — And now we come to our last point, namely, that Enoch ***“pleased God.”*** God was glad to have Enoch walk with Him, not trying to run ahead and getting himself into all kinds of trouble and mischief, nor

lagging behind as one who has to be dragged along, but walking with Him, step by step, and being guided, directed, and protected by Him along the way of life. Thus, walking with Him, there was no doubt as to how the way would end. He was walking with God!

The writer to the Hebrews says *“he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* Some people think that it is hard to please God. That is not true at all. Enoch was also a sinner, and still he pleased God.

It was, as the same writer to the Hebrews explains, because Enoch was a man of faith. He repented of his sins. He was even an example of repentance, he lived a life of *faith*. We read in the next verse, Hebrews 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* Enoch’s faith was counted to him for righteousness.

“For God *took him.*” — And God took him. That is what walking with God meant for Enoch. Of others we read: *“And he died.”* But of Enoch we read: *“And he was not, for God took him.”* We do not know the details. *“⁵By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death.”* He did not die. God took him — to Himself in heaven.

It is possible for *us to please God.* — This also applies to us. In the first place, by the grace of God it is possible for us to please God. We are all poor, miserable sinners who daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment. But by faith we please God.

We believe in Jesus as our Saviour who suffered and died for us. And we show our faith in a Christian life. Although we are sinners, we lead a God-pleasing life, when we live like St. Paul who said: *“²¹For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”¹⁴*

And God will also take us. — And God will also take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven. Walking with God like Enoch, we shall also like Enoch enter into eternal bliss, whether it be through the portals of death, or, in case the Lord’s final coming shall take place during our earthly life, then by immediate translation into life everlasting.

What a privilege to walk with God! In His hands we are safe.

Let us close with the words of the hymnist,¹⁵

Jesus only can impart
Balm to heal the smitten heart,
Peace that flows from sins forgiven,
Joy that lifts the soul to heaven,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod. Amen

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

¹ Jude 14-15

² Luke 3:37

³ Heb. 11:5

⁴ Matthew 28:20

⁵ ALHB 381

⁶ Hymn 361

⁷ Amos 3:3

⁸ Gen. 6:2

⁹ Gen. 6:5

¹⁰ Gen. 6:11

¹¹ Gen. 17:1

¹² Gen. 39:9

¹³ Matt. 5:16

¹⁴ Phil. 1:21

¹⁵ Hymn 170