

Walking With Jesus

Mark 16: 19-20

A child wrote a letter to God. "Loving God, our family is going to take a vacation for 2 weeks starting this Friday. So I cannot attend church for the next two Sundays. I hope that you have a great day 'til we come back. By the way God, when are you going to take a vacation?" The child worried that God may not be at the church when he came back from his vacation. I have a question for you, "Do you take God with you every time you take a vacation?"

Christian life means walking with Jesus. Jesus is always at your side and mine too. Jesus is everywhere in the world. Many Christians have strange faith because they walk with Jesus inside the church, but not when they are outside the church. Why do many Christians live an unhappy faith life without a lively God experience? It is because we miss the secret of this amazing faith, where Jesus walks with us in our lives. If I ask you, "Where is Jesus now?" You may answer, "Jesus is in my mind." That's correct. He is inside us. We already know this, but for some reason we do not apply to our lives anymore. We have already heard much about Jesus, yet we are not talking with Him, walking with Him, obeying His Word and experiencing His miracle. Attending church every Sunday, serving the church in our community, and giving our offerings are not difficult in a Christian life. The hardest thing in a Christian life is walking with Jesus.

A guest speaker for a revival service asked some ladies, "If Jesus is your husband, would you be happy or not?" The ladies answered, "Of course we would be happy." Do you think so? What do our church ladies think? Would you really be happy if Jesus was your husband? If your attitude agrees with Jesus, then you would be happy. However, if you want to live your life in your own way and you don't care what Jesus says to you, then I don't think you would be happy. They would probably nag at Jesus everyday. The church is the same. Even though we confess that Jesus is the head of the church and that we should obey His Word, even if Jesus himself told us to move some church property, it probably wouldn't be easy. Probably the issue must be passed in the church officer's meeting. Actually, it is very confusing to know who the head of the church actually is.

In the book of John, Jesus promised to His disciples "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." Notably, John 14:16-17 says, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." From the beginning, the Holy Spirit lived with us and is in us. Can you believe that Jesus lives with you and me through the Holy Spirit? Then, how do we know that Jesus lives with us?

There is some evidence. If we can confess Jesus as our savior and God as our father, that could be the first piece of evidence that Jesus lives with us. If you ask unbelievers, "Who is Jesus?" nobody will reply, "He is my savior". They cannot confess God as their father. However, you and I can confess Jesus as our savior and God as our father. The reason is that the LORD is within us. 1 Corinthians 12:3 says, "no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit." Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." The second piece of evidence that we have is that Jesus lives with us is that we are being led by

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the Holy Spirit. If someone has the Holy Spirit in their mind, they can realize God's Word, want to go to church, pray, and have a merciful mind to others. That is because the Holy Spirit inside us controls our mind and thoughts.

Walking with Jesus is one of the most obvious facts that we are with the Holy Spirit. Are you walking with the resurrected Jesus? When we are alone, it is a good time to know how we really walk with Jesus. Most Christians live a holy life in front of people. However, when we are alone, sometimes we lose our holy life. We are usually a good Christian when we worship God with other people. But when we are alone at home, our faith can fall down in front of various kinds of temptations.

A pastor once told the story of a high school student in his church who wanted to talk with him. He told the pastor that he thinks that his parents are not normal. The reason is that his parents often fight each other at home. They even fought each other on the way to church. But once they got to the parking lot, their attitudes totally changed. Then they would say things like, 'Hallelujah', 'Amen', 'I love you'... And then he said when they came back to home, their fighting began again just like when they came to church. The high school student asked the pastor how they could act like that and have sane mind. His parents always say things like: "I enjoyed the pastor's sermon" and "I have received great grace from the worship service", yet they still fight each other. So that's why the high school student is so skeptical about his parent's faith.

We should understand the important secret to our Christian life. We cannot live in this world through our own power. We can follow the path of virtue for a good life. However, that is not a Christian life. We need to have the Holy Spirit inside us to control our lives. We can live a holy life by obeying God's Word instead of our own will. You are not holy because of your own efforts. To become holy, the Holy Spirit through Jesus comes to live inside us. We can live a holy life when we are convinced that Jesus is with us and when we give our lives to Him and obey God. I encourage you to decide to obey the Holy Spirit. I encourage you to decide to walk with Jesus, not by our own power, ability and knowledge. Through today's scripture, we can meet the disciples who had an active God experience and lived a victorious life through the Holy Spirit while walking with resurrected Jesus.

I want you to look at today's scripture reading to find two important messages for walking with Jesus. The first important message for walking with Jesus is that we should recognize the fact that Jesus Christ is raised from the dead and sits at the right hand of God. Verse 19 says, "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God." Jesus Christ has risen and is alive. The Bible also tells us that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God. The phrase, 'Jesus sat at the right hand of God' means that He is still working on two different ministries for us. One is an intercession and the other one is ruling over all nations. The Jesus who was raised and sits at the right hand of God is praying for us. Romans 8:34 says, "...Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." The Bible tells us that the resurrected Jesus is interceding for us constantly.

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I want to encourage all of you with the knowledge that Christ Jesus, who died and was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is interceding for each of us. Jesus Christ is not only interceding at the right hand of God, but he also rules over all nations. Sitting at the right hand of God means that He rules over all world events. The events of the world are not decided by man. We need to make sure that world events are not being led by some nations or some politicians. Everything in the world is decided by Jesus Christ our LORD. Our personal life is the same. We should believe that births, deaths, misfortune and happiness are all in Jesus' hands. If we really believe in Jesus Christ our LORD who rules over all nations and is also interceding for me, then we don't need to break down when we are in dire situations.

Verse 20 is the second most important message for walking with Jesus. "Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it." Jesus worked with His disciples. In verse 19, it says Jesus sat on the right hand of God. However, verse 20 says He worked with His disciples. How can this be? It is a very amazing spiritual secret that while He sat on the right hand of God and He also worked with His disciples. The resurrected Jesus sat on the right hand of God and ruled over all the nations and yet He simultaneously worked with His disciples.

This is what we should take away from today's scripture. That the resurrected Jesus worked with His disciples. Many signs and miracles in the book of Acts are the evidence that Jesus worked with His disciples. In the gospels, Jesus healed the sick, drove out demons and raised the dead. In the book of Acts, the disciples healed the sick, drove out demons and raised the dead. These things happened throughout the gospels and the book of Acts. Why is that? It is because the resurrected Jesus worked with His disciples. The same is true today. The resurrected Jesus is now with you and me and working with us. Jesus Christ our LORD is the same yesterday and today and forever. I pray that the resurrected Jesus Christ is with us now through the Holy Spirit. I pray that Jesus Christ comes here through the Holy Spirit and heals all of the sick through our worship service. I pray that those who fall down in their life are raised up because of Jesus. I pray that every problem in your life is solved by Jesus walking with you.

David Livingstone, the great missionary of Africa, received his honorary doctoral degree at Oxford University in London recently. There was a worship service before the conferment of the degree. During the worship service, he was preaching to the students about his personal experiences in Africa. He said that it was difficult as he fought with himself during the heat of the day and the severe cold of the night. Many students nodded to show that they understood. Also he said that he still felt the pain from the animals attacking him and the hindrance of his mission caused by the locals. Actually his right arm was disabled due to an attack by a lion. After his speech, one of students lifts up his hand and asked, "Sir, your life as a missionary seemed very hard to me. What is the secret that led you to overcome these challenges during your time in Africa?" He spent some time in thought and then answered. "There was no secret to overcoming them. The only things that I used to overcome these challenges during my life in Africa are these: One is the word of Jesus when he said, 'I am with you always, to the very end of the age' and the other is His cross."

Beloved sisters and brothers, I want to encourage all of you. Are you really walking with Jesus in your life? Can you keep your holy faith alive even when you are alone? Or are you uncertain

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that the resurrected Jesus is walking with you? We should grasp the following two things today. “Jesus Christ is sitting on the right hand of God and rules over all nations.” And, “He is now with us.”