

## Walking with Jesus wherever He goes

We often go for walks. While we're walking, we chat, and sometimes we just walk in silence. We walk together going in the same direction. We have one mind on the route that we are taking. Walking with someone isn't only a matter of exercise, but a time of relationship building, fellowship, cohesion, togetherness, enjoying each other's company while being in tune with each other on the route and direction that we're going. We are told that Enoch walked with God. Jesus invites us to walk with Him wherever He goes.

Mark 1:35-39

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

### 1) With Jesus in prayer

- Jesus saw the need to pray, and He invites us to be with Him in prayer
  - Sometimes that invitation is purely by the example that He set, and other times he explicitly invites and even commands us to join Him in prayer
- Walking with Jesus in prayer is about our relationship with Him
  - Our relationship with Him precedes going where He goes and doing what He does
- Prayer is a humble act of submission to God acknowledging our constant need of Him in every aspect of our lives.
  - Conversely, prayerlessness is pride stating that we have no need of God.
- Jesus, in His humanity, recognised that He could do nothing without the Father and had an absolute need of Him
  - John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.
  - It was probably out of this sense of dependence that drove Jesus to spend much time in prayer in solitude
- Jesus taught us to pray the way that He prayed – in solitude
  - Matthew 6:5-6 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- When and why did Jesus pray?
  - Empowerment for ministry
    - He fasted and prayed for 40 days in the wilderness before commencing His ministry
  - For rest and restoration
    - After a busy time of ministry, He called His disciples to be with Him and rest
  - In times of grief
    - After hearing about John's death Jesus withdrew to be alone in a solitary place
  - When guidance is needed
    - He prayed the whole night before choosing the twelve apostles
  - When facing foreseen traumatic situations
    - He prayed through the night in the Garden of Gethsemane before He was crucified
- How did Jesus pray?
  - We see the heart of Jesus' prayer in John 17
    - The Glory of God and Himself
    - The protection of the believers
    - The unity of the believers – the church
    - That the world may believe

## 2) With Jesus in location

- Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages
- Jesus calls us to follow Him
- Sometimes walking with Jesus is comfortable
  - It's comfortable walking with Him to solitary places for prayer
  - It's comfortable going to Peter's house where He healed his mother-in-law
  - It's comfortable going to familiar places of worship where He speaks to His people
  - It's comfortable walking with Jesus on outreaches where we can be spectators of what He's doing.
- Sometimes walking with Jesus is uncomfortable
  - It's uncomfortable walking with Jesus to other cultures, especially ones that we don't like. Like the Samaritans and the Gentiles
  - It's uncomfortable walking with Jesus into hostile settings where He gets persecuted and we're affiliated with Him
  - It's uncomfortable walking with Jesus and our reputation is ruined in the community because of our association with Him
  - It's uncomfortable walking with Jesus when He overthrows the status quo of the religious people and businessmen
- Sometimes walking with Jesus is outright dangerous
  - It's dangerous walking with Jesus when the people of His own town take Him to the edge of the cliff to throw Him off
  - It's dangerous walking with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when He gets arrested by an armed mob
  - It's dangerous walking with Jesus when He's on trial and is crucified
  - It's dangerous walking with Jesus to cultures hostile to Him, such as at Ephesus
- Will you still walk with Jesus when it's dangerous, or only when it's comfortable, or perhaps when it's uncomfortable?

## 3) With Jesus in ministry

- Mark 1:39 So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.
- When Jesus called His disciples He didn't only call them to follow Him, but also to do ministry with Him
  - Mark 1:16-17 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
- Walking with Him in prayer is good and right; walking with Him to various locations while he ministers to people is excellent; however, the time has to come when He expects us to minister to others ourselves
- The time came when Jesus:
  - Sent His disciples out to preach and heal the sick
  - Made His disciples feed the multitude
  - Left his disciples with the command to go and make disciples of all nations
- Which areas of life are you walking with Jesus in?
  - All of them: prayer, comfortable, uncomfortable, dangerous locations, and ministry
  - Only prayer and comfortable situations
  - Only ministry but not prayer
- In all this, don't neglect the aspect of godly Christ-like character
- Which area of life do you need to work on to have a wholesome walk with Jesus?