Merely Living? Or Walking with God?

• Genesis 5 contains the chronological history of 10 generations.
  o Including Adam, nine patriarchal men proceeded Noah.
  o Notice the language that scripture uses to describe each man's life.

• Adam lived 130 years and had a son named Seth.
  o He then lived another 800 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Adam lived were 930 years.

• Seth lived 105 years and had a son named Enos.
  o He then lived another 807 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Seth lived were 912 years.

• Enos lived 90 years and had a son named Cainan.
  o He then lived another 815 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Enos lived were 905 years.

• Cainan lived 70 years and had a son named Mahalaleel.
  o He then lived another 840 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Cainan lived were 910 years.

• Mahalaleel lived 65 years and had a son named Jared.
  o He then lived another 830 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Mahalaleel lived were 895 years.

• Jared lived 162 years and had a son named Enoch.
  o He then lived another 800 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Jared lived were 962 years.

• Enoch's son Methusela lived 187 years and had a son named Lamech.
  o He then lived another 782 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Mahalaleel lived were 969 years.

• Lamech lived 182 years and had a son named Noah.
  o He then lived another 595 years, having other sons and daughters.
  o All the days that Mahalaleel lived were 777 years.

• Have you noticed a pattern here?
  o Each of these men “lived” from the time he was born
    • until he first became a father,
    • then “lived” an additional number of years
      • and it was noted, at the end of his days
        o that he “lived” a certain number of years
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That pattern repeats itself 8 times in Genesis chapter 5.

- The one anomaly in that pattern is Enoch.
  - This is what the Bible says about Enoch:

**Genesis 5:21-24**

21 And Enoch **lived** sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:
22 And Enoch **walked with God** after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:
23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:
24 And Enoch **walked with God; and he was not; for God took him.**

- All the other men in that chapter “lived” their lives.
  - But something happened in Enoch’s life.
- There was a change somewhere along the way.
  - His story starts just like everyone else’s story.
  - He is a common guy.
- Living a common life,
  - dealing with the ordinary
    - day-to-day struggles of life.
- But somewhere around the time
  - that he became the father of his first son, Methusela,
    - Enoch’s life was transformed.
- His biography, alone,
  - notes that he spent the rest of years,
    - not merely “living”
      - but “walking with God.”

- What does that mean?
  - The others merely “lived” out their days.
    - They offered sacrifices to God.
    - They maintained a righteous line of godliness
      - and worshipped the one true God.
  - We know this because the worship of God
    - is passed from Adam to Noah
      - through this godly lineage.
  - The rest of their world was given
    - completely over to sin and self-pleasure.
  - The rest of their world ignored God
    - and eventually got so far away from God,
      - in the span of 10 generations,
        - that God destroyed the earth in Noah’s day
          - and started all over.
- But these nine men that
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- carry the witness of the word of God
  - through the generations
    - from Adam to Noah,
- while they worshipped God
  - and passed his word down
    - from one generation to the next,
- the history writer notes
  - that they merely lived out their lives.

- But Enoch was different.
  - As a matter of fact, he was radically different.
- For 65 years, he was just like the others.
  - He lived a life of service
    - to a God he didn’t really know
      - but then something changed.
- This is one of those times
  - that I wish the scripture could
    - open up more fully
      - and really reveal to us what happened.
- I don’t exactly what happened
  - but somewhere along the way
    - Enoch developed a relationship with God
  - that went far beyond merely living for God
    - and was encapsulated in the words,
      - Enoch walked with God!
- As a matter of fact, for the last 300 years of his life,
  - he progressively became so much closer to God
    - that eventually God decided
      - that he couldn’t get any closer to him
        - without being translated
      - from the physical world
        - to the spiritual world
    - and Enoch’s walk with God
      - was such a powerful force
        - that, when it came to that point,
          - God simply took him out of this life
            - and translated him into eternity.

- What a mind-boggling concept.
  - That a man could get so close to God
    - that he would no longer be
      - at home in this world anymore.
- That a man would become so close to God
  - that God would desire his presence in eternity
• long before his years on this earth were concluded.

• Of all the men who ever lived,
  o of Enoch alone it is said:
    ▪ Enoch walked with God;
      • and he was not;
        o for God took him.

• That is the vast difference
  o between merely living
    ▪ and actually walking with God!

• I want you to consider for moment
  o this one question:
    ▪ Are you merely living?
      • Or are you walking with God?

• Are you just passing your days?
  o Are you just getting by?
    ▪ Are you just doing the bare minimum
      • of what it takes to live for God?

• Are you guilty of falling into the same trap
  o that all those ancient men fell into,
    ▪ the trap of becoming so caught up in your life
      • and your desires
      • and the pursuit of whatever pleases you
        o that you've relegated living for God
          ▪ to some insignificant corner of your life?

• It is time to be honest with yourself.
  o Are you just passing your days on this earth,
    ▪ merely living,
      • barely getting by spiritually,
  o or have you discovered
    ▪ what it really means to walk with God?

• Enoch's story is in scripture for a reason.
  o The writer notes a difference
    ▪ about Enoch's life on purpose.

• The history of scripture does not just exist
  o so that we can know what happened
    ▪ all those years ago.

• The history of scripture exists
  o so that we can know
    ▪ that what happened then can happen now.

• Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:11 that
  o "these things happened to them as an example,"
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- but they were written down for our instruction.”

- Enoch’s story isn’t there,
  - tucked away in the genealogy of the patriarchs
    - just so that we can know
      - that there was once a man
        - who lived a life
          - that none of his peers ever lived.
  - in the middle of his otherwise ordinary life,
    - discovered what it is to walk with God.
  - A man who got so close to God
    - that God had to take him from this world.

- The story isn’t there
  - just so we can marvel
    - at what happened to Enoch.

- The story is there
  - so that we can know that
    - **IT IS POSSIBLE TO WALK THAT CLOSE TO GOD!**

- The story is there so that we can read
  - and realize that we, too,
    - can have that kind of relationship with God.

- The problem is that
  - we are altogether too satisfied
    - with merely living!

- We are too comfortable
  - with just passing our days.

- For too many of us
  - heaven is a destination
    - that we are hoping that
      - we can just barely scrape our way into.

- But Enoch shows us
  - that there is way of living
    - that goes far beyond just getting by.
  - There is a relationship with God
    - that is much deeper
      - and far more powerful
        - that we can have with God.

- The prophet Amos asked a powerful
  - and important question
    - in Amos 3:3:
      - *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

- Here’s the caveat.
• If you are going to walk with God,
  ▪ you have to be going in the same direction as him.
  ▪ Two cannot walk together unless they agree.

• Let me let you in on a little secret:
  ▪ God doesn’t negotiate.

• If you are going to walk with him,
  ▪ you have to go where he’s going.
    ▪ He won’t walk with you
      ▪ on your little detours.
  ▪ He won’t make the side trips with you.
    ▪ He’s not going to venture off with you
      ▪ while you go chasing after something
        ▪ that is contrary to his will
          ▪ and plan for your life.

• If you are going to walk with God,
  ▪ then you have to put everything else in your life
    ▪ under submission to him and his will.

• In order to walk with him,
  ▪ he has to come first
    ▪ and everything else has to come second.

• If I am going to walk with God,
  ▪ anything in my life that contradicts his purpose
    ▪ and his will for my life
      ▪ has to be abandoned.
  ▪ Anything that is talking me away from him
    ▪ or in a different direction than he is going
      ▪ has to die.

• God and I cannot walk together
  ▪ unless we are in agreement.
    ▪ And that doesn’t mean
      ▪ that the He has to agree with me.
        ▪ That means that I have to agree with him.

• The chief reason why
  ▪ so few people ever experience
    ▪ the walk with God
      ▪ that he wants us to have
  ▪ is because so few of us
    ▪ are really willing to surrender our lives to him
      ▪ with such reckless abandon.

• Think about it for a minute.
  ▪ Anyone who comes to God
    ▪ must come as Enoch came,
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- consciously surrendering his life
  - to the eternal purpose of God
  - without regard for self.
- Don't you think that Enoch would have enjoyed
  - living the 900 years that all of his peers lived?
- Don't think that there was so much of life
  - that was left undone,
    - so much that he never experienced,
  - when God took Enoch from this world
    - at the youthful age of 365?
- From our perspective,
  - he lived less than half the life
    - that his peers lived.
  - **But that’s the problem.**
    - Our perspective is completely wrong.
      - Our perspective is entirely self-centered.
        - It’s all about us.
          - Everything revolves around us.
    - What was so radically different about Enoch’s life
      - is that it revolved around God!
    - From God’s Point of view
      - Enoch lived a richer,
        - more full and abundant life
          - in 365 years that he lived
        - than all of his peers lived
          - in all of their 900 some odd years.
    - Enoch packed so much living
      - into those last 300 years
        - that God said,
          - “He can’t experience anything more in his fleshly body.
            - He’s gotten as close to me as he can humanly get!
            - I’m going to have to give him a new body,
              - a new reality,
              - and make him a new creature
            - because he’s done all the living he can do
              - in this present life.”
          - So one day, God simply took him
            - out of this life and into the next.
- The problem is that we’ve got our focus all wrong.
  - We look at living for God
    - from a very self-centered perspective.
- The questions that we struggle with
  - are not how close to God can I get,
• but, rather, how close to the world
  • will he allow me to live?
• How much ungodliness
  o can I take into my life and still be saved?
• How much of the manners and customs of this world
  o can I adopt and still be considered holy?
• How much love for the world
  o can I entertain
    ▪ before it costs me my relationship with God?
• **We want to know how the low the bar goes.**
  o We focus on the minimums.
    ▪ What does it take to merely be saved?
    ▪ What does it take to merely live for God?
    ▪ What does it take to stay in the church?
    ▪ What is the least that I have to do?
• All along, we are leaving the best part behind.
  o All along we are sacrificing the abundant life
    ▪ that God has given us
      • to live on so much less.
  o We insist on eating with the pigs in the pigpen
    ▪ when our daddy’s table is set
      • in such satisfying splendor.
  o We drink from the filthy cisterns of this world
    ▪ while we neglect the abundant wells of living water
      • that God has provided for us.
  o We turn our back on a table
    ▪ that was prepared for us
      • and forage in the garbage cans of this life,
  o eating from the very gutter of human existence
    ▪ when we were called
      • to sit in heavenly places
        o and partake of the very riches of glory!
• All because we are so focused
  o on the needs,
    ▪ desires,
      • and wants of our flesh!
• We’ve been taught, our entire lives
  o that our chief aim is to please ourselves!
• Little Baby Tatum Olivia
  o is already learning
    ▪ that when she gets hungry
      • all she has to do is cry
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• She’s already learning
  o that the world revolves around her.

• The problem is that we carry
  o that mindset into our spiritual lives.
    ▪ We have the impression
      • that God’s main purpose
        o is to satisfy us.
  o We have convinced ourselves
    ▪ that his chief goal
      • is to make us happy.

• Let me share a simply truth with you:
  o God was not made for you.
    ▪ You were made for God.

• God does not exist to be your glorified bell boy.
  o He does not simply exist
    ▪ to do whatever pleases you,
      • to do whatever it takes
        o to satisfy your every whim
          ▪ and carnal desire.
        • Not at all.
  o You were made to glorify him.
    ▪ You were created for his pleasure.
      • You were created to fellowship him,
        o to walk with him, and to know him.

• But somehow we have convinced ourselves
  o that God bends to our reasoning,
    ▪ that he will conform to our rationale.

• The reason why we live our lives
  o at the minimums
    ▪ and waste ourselves
      • in the gutters of this life
        o instead of walking in heavenly places
  o is because we have convinced ourselves
    ▪ that this is all God needs from us.

• We have convinced ourselves
  o that God should be so happy
    ▪ that we are actually making an effort to live for him,
      • in whatever minimalistic way we are doing it,
    ▪ that He will bless and condone
      • whatever measure of our lives
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• This is the reason why so many
  ○ merely live their lives
    ▪ instead of walking with God,
      ○ we think we can dictate to God
        ▪ what it means to walk with him.
  • Honey, he’s not your bellboy
    ○ and he’s nobodies fool.
      ▪ He has made plain in his word
        ○ what it takes to walk with him
          ▪ and the first thing on the list
            ▪ is that I must die out to myself!
        ▪ I must willingly lay my life on an altar
          ○ and crucify this flesh
            ▪ with all of its debilitating wants and whims.
      ▪ I must exalt God
        ○ above my desires,
        ○ above my wants,
        ○ above even my own pleasure and comfort.

• I wish you would consider Job.
  ○ Job was a righteous man
    ▪ who loved God
      ▪ and kept his commandments.
  • But God decided to allow Satan to afflict him
    ○ for no other reason than simply
      ▪ to demonstrate God’s glory!
  • Job lost everything.
    ○ It cost him all of his earthly possessions,
      ▪ his kids,
      ▪ his health...
        ▪ everything.
  • And God never explained himself.
    ○ God never gave Job understanding.
      ▪ As a matter of fact,
        ▪ through most of Job’s trial
          ○ God was silent,
            ▪ the heavens were closed up.
        ▪ He couldn’t find God anywhere.
          ▪ He couldn’t feel God anywhere.
  • Job’s great testimony
    ○ is that he continued to believe
• in the goodness of God
  • when God’s goodness was nowhere to be found.
• Job continued to believe
  o that his whole purpose for living
    ▪ was to glorify God,
    • no matter what was going on in his life!

• We look at Job and marvel.
  o But we fail to see the most powerful point
    ▪ that Job’s life makes for us:
      • Everything in Job’s life
        o was submitted to God.
      • God took it all from Job
        o but Job never stopped glorifying God.
  o Because Job understood,
    ▪ that was what he was made for.
• Our chief problem
  o is that we think that God was made for us.
    ▪ We think that God should satisfy us.
  o It goes against our way of looking at life
    ▪ to imagine that God would allow us
      • to be afflicted,
    ▪ that he would place us
      • in the midst of chaos and trouble
        o for no other reason
          ▪ than simply to bring glory to himself!
• But that is exactly what God did with Job.
  o And that is exactly what God has made
    ▪ each and every one of us for.
      • We were made to glorify him.
    o That is the highest purpose of our lives.

• **Listen to me:**
  o **Your life will never undergo**
    ▪ the transformation from “merely living”
    • to “walking with God”
    ▪ **until you put God**
      • **on the throne of your life.**

• What that means is that its time for a revolt.
  o **King self has been on the throne for far too long.**
• And as long as king self rules your life,
  o you will never know what it is
    • to walk with God.
• You will always settle for less.
  o You will always be bound
    ▪ to what pleases your flesh.
  ▪ You will always be limited
    • to your flawed logic
      o and your carnal reasoning.
• Have you ever wondered how it is
  o that religious institutions
    ▪ make peace with lifestyles
      • that the Bible adamantly portrays as sin?
  o I can tell you how:
    ▪ they elevate their own reasoning
      • and their own desire for peace and prosperity
        o above God in their lives.
• They stopped walking with God a long time ago
  o and they’ve finally gotten to the place
    ▪ that their living isn’t even taking them
      • in the same direction as God anymore.
  o That’s how you get to the place
    ▪ where you call evil good
      • and good evil.

Let me call your attention one more time to the words of Jesus:

**Luke 9:23-24**

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

• Jesus said that anyone
  o who wants to be his disciple
    ▪ must do three things:
  • First he must deny himself.
    o Self is the single greatest obstacle
      ▪ to walking with God.
        • Self must be denied.
          o Self must be thrown off
            ▪ of the throne of our lives.
    o This is the radical change
      ▪ that God requires of us.
  o It flies in the face
    ▪ of everything that we are taught
      • our entire lives.
    ▪ We must submit our will,
      • and our desires,
        o and our wants and whims to God.
• Forget walking with God,
  o you cannot even enter the realm
    ▪ of being a fringe disciple
    ▪ until you are willing to deny yourself!
  o This isn’t the final step,
    ▪ this is the initial threshold
    ▪ to following after God.
• But we’ve drifted so far
  o that it seems as if this
    ▪ would be the ultimate expression
      ▪ of faithfulness to God!
        ▪ It isn’t!!!
          ▪ It’s just the start.

• The next thing that must happen
  o is that we must take up the cross.
• A condemned criminal
  o was forced to carry his cross
    ▪ to the place of his execution.
• It was said of a criminal
  o when he was seen carrying the cross
    ▪ that he was “on a one-way journey”.
      ▪ He would never be back again!
• That’s what Jesus is calling us to do.
  o Not just to inconvenience our self
    ▪ on a Sunday night
      ▪ but to completely leave behind
        ▪ our captivity to our self-centered way of living
          ▪ and follow after him.
  o Take up your cross, he said, and follow me.
    ▪ **It is a one-way journey.**
      ▪ **Walking with God is a one-way trip!**

• In the end, the man who merely lives his life
  o is in danger of gaining the whole world
    ▪ but losing his soul.
• God is calling to his church, tonight,
  o to abandon this foolish,
    ▪ self-centered life
      ▪ that we have settled for
        ▪ and strive for something
          ▪ so much deeper.
• God wants you to walk with him.
  o That is what you were made for.
• That is the only thing
  • that will ever satisfy your soul.

• There will always be an emptiness,
  • a brokenness,
    • an unsatisfied desire deep within you
      • if you never come to the place
        • of true discipleship
          • and lay down your life to follow him.

Close

• I’m here tonight to sound the alarm,
  • to wake us up before it is too late.

• God is calling us to abandon shallow living
  • and discover what it truly means to walk with him.

• The quickest path to losing out with God
  • is satisfaction with where you are.

• The quickest way
  • to grow spiritually cold and dead
    • is to lose your hunger for the presence of God.

• My friend, I’m here to tell you
  • that the distractions of this life
    • act as anesthesia for your soul,
      • dulling your hunger for God
        • and the things of God
          • until they rock you off to sleep.

• When the enemy of your soul
  • gets you to the place where
    • you are merely living,
      • barely getting by,
    • just sleepwalking through
      • your walk with God
        • without any real power
          • of the Holy Ghost in your life,
            • that’s when he is free
              • to come in and rob you of your joy.

• The thief, Jesus said in John 10:10, comes to steal, kill, and destroy.
  • The first thing he does
    • before he spiritually kills you
      • is to steal from you the blessings of God,
        • the joy of the Holy Ghost,
          • and the wonder of actually
            • walking with God!
• Jesus said in Matthew 24:43
  o that *if the goodman of the house had known*
    ▪ *in what watch the thief would come,*
    ▪ *he would have watched,*
    ▪ *and would not have suffered his house*
      o *to be broken up.*
• If the good man had only realized
  o that the thief was going to rob him,
    ▪ then slowly kill him,
    ▪ he would have stood guard against him.
• He would not have gone off to sleep.
  o But he didn’t know.
• And, though he was sometimes vigilant
  o and sometimes watchful,
    ▪ he eventually got lulled off to sleep
    ▪ and left his home unprotected.
• That’s what merely living will get you.
  o It will lead you to the place
    ▪ where the endless cycle
      ▪ of days and weeks
        o lulls you off to sleep.
  o It will bring you to the place
    ▪ where the entertainments
      ▪ and enticements of this world
        o become much more captivating
          ▪ and much more rewarding to you
      ▪ than the pursuit
        o of the blessings of God in your life.
  o And before long, if you aren’t careful,
    ▪ the rhythm of day-to-day living
      ▪ will lull you right off to sleep
        o and you will lose everything
          ▪ that really matters in life.
    ▪ The worst part of it is
      o that you won’t even realize what you’ve lost
        ▪ until its gone!
• I come to this pulpit tonight to sound the alarm,
  o to stir you up,
    ▪ to challenge your soul to wake up
      ▪ before it is too late.
• There is more to life than simply living!
There is more to life than just getting by!

- There is a relationship with God
  - that goes so much deeper
    - than the surface level
    - where you are so used to living.
- God is calling you to walk with him,
  - to know him,
    - and to experience him
    - in a way that you never have before.
- The Holy Ghost is moving
  - across this auditorium tonight,
    - stirring up that which
      - was almost dead.
  - It is waking up that which
    - had nodded off to sleep.
- The Holy Ghost is trying to revive
  - a hunger in your heart
    - for the things of God.
- You were made for more than this.
  - You were made for more than just living.
- Just as surely as John 10:10 says that:
  - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...
- In the same scripture Jesus said:
  - I am come that they might have life,
    - and that they might have it more abundantly.
- Abundant life is calling you.
  - God is inviting you to know him,
    - to walk with him
      - like Enoch walked with him!
- Lets end where we started:
  - Enoch’s story changed.
    - He didn’t always walk with God.
  - Your story can change too!
    - The first thing that has to happen
      - is that self has to sacrificed
        - on an altar of repentance.
- I hear the Holy Ghost calling:
  - Come and die.
  - Come and lay down your life.
  - Come and let go of the glittering trinkets
    - that have captivated you
      - and experience the abundant life
        - that awaits you.
• Come walk with God.