

#38
September 2, 2018

Can't run, but I can walk.

Genesis 5: 18-24; Micah 6:8.

When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹ After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away."^[a] For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

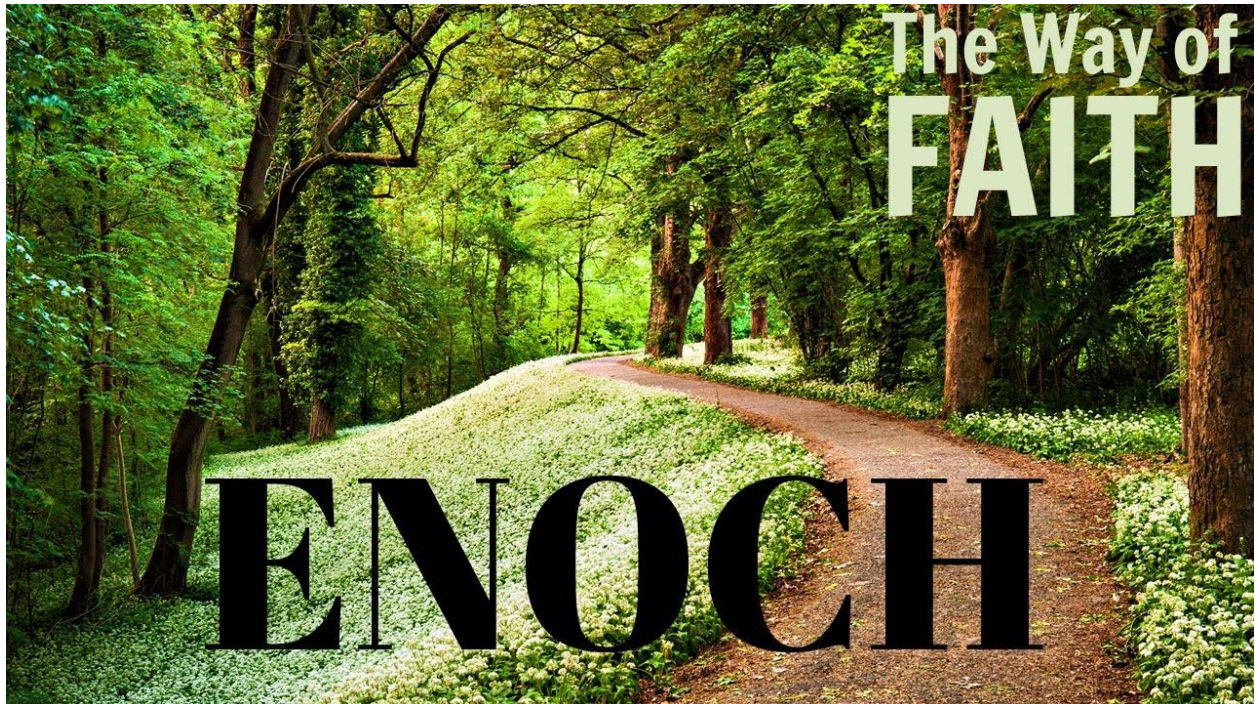


I used to run. I loved running. I have never run a marathon, but I always enjoyed a little run. It made my mind clearer, my stress lower and my body healthier. About a year ago, I realized, that running is hard for me. It is not much joy in it anymore. I really have to push myself and I am done after a half of a mile. I am partly to blame because I have not maintained the discipline of daily training my body.

You do not have to tell me that I am getting older. I already know that. It is hard to face that you cannot do what you used to do. I do not have to inform many of you that it is not easy to adjust to the changes with age. So what do you do when you are no longer who you used to be?

It is tempting to just give up. We forget there are better ways to live this life such as walking with God.

So I started to walk. Sometimes slow, sometimes faster. Every day I walk circles around the church. Many circles. Sometimes Andrew joins me. I love it. There are a few things you have to agree upon when you decide to walk together: Where are we going? How long will we be walking? How fast we are going to walk?



Enoch was part of the the seventh generation from Adam. Surely he knew the story of creation and the story of Cain and Abel. Within just seven generations, the world became very cruel.

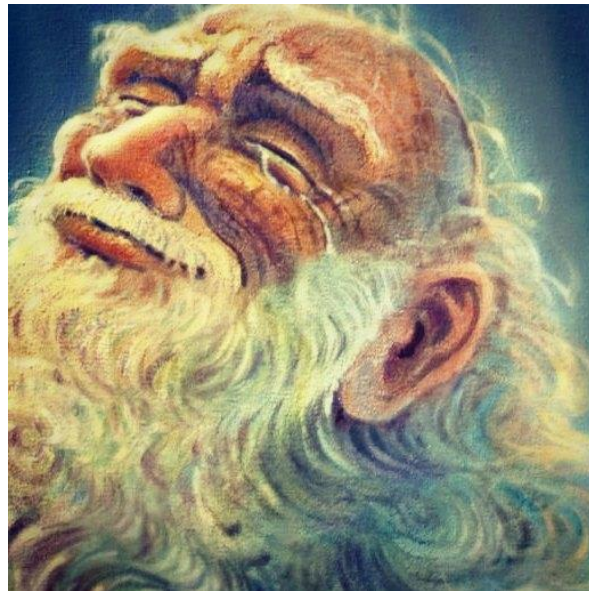
Consider this snapshot of those dark days – "They sought only to gratify the desires of their own proud hearts, and reveled in scenes of pleasure and wickedness. Not desiring to retain God in their knowledge, they soon came to deny his existence. Neither the marriage relation nor the rights of property were respected. Whoever coveted the wives or the possessions of his neighbor took them by force, and men exulted in their deeds of violence".

Genesis 6:6 tells us that it became so bad that by the time of his grandson, Noah, God regretted making humans. How sad! God was sorry he made us. Can there be a more tragic verse in the Bible?

Enoch lived during a unique time in human history, just before God's judgment of the world by the flood. Enoch is a man of the last-days believer, showing us how to live as we await the Lord's return.

So what set Enoch apart? How was he able to live a godly life in an ungodly world in a time that was characterized by sexual perversion and uncontrolled violence?

When Enoch was 65 years old, he became a father. After that he started to walk with God. Interestingly, he became a father and then started to walk with God. Sometimes we need something good or bad to happen to start walking with God. Are you walking with God? Maybe it is hard for you to walk. Enoch walked with God for 300 years. I bet that at the age of 365 it was hard for him to walk too. I think for all of us



there is a time to walk, to run, to sit or lay down, or maybe just to take a breath, but in any stage of life we can continue walking with God.

Enoch walked faithfully 300 years with God. Let's stop and consider it more deeply. Did he physically walk with God like Adam and Eve when they enjoyed a real physical presence of God in Eden? Did Enoch have such a walk with God. I do not know. I tend to believe that it was faith and walking in faith with God. We read in Hebrews, "By faith Enoch was taken from this life" By faith. You do not have to have much faith if you truly see God face to face. When you believe you are choosing to live with God whom you do not see but know He is.

I can't run but I can walk

It's a strange idea to imagine appealing to or walking with someone we believe does not exist. We exhibit faith when we believe something before we see it. This is very unlike the typical rule followed by most of the world "I'll believe it when I see it."

Everyone knows the nickname for the State of Missouri. They call themselves the "Show Me State". It is even on their license plates. There are several stories how

they got the name. A train conductor made people show their tickets. He would say, "Show me your ticket. I am from Missouri."

In 1899 Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver made a speech where he said, "I come from a state that raises corn and cotton and cockleburs and Democrats, and frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me."

As a believer, you walk by faith trusting that the Holy Spirit is present and real in your life. It is a decision you make every day to walk with Him. Hebrews informs us that Faith that is seen is not faith. Rather faith is the evidence of things not seen.

It is one thing, to go and walk with your imaginary friend. My kids' favorite word in their play time is : "pretend". Let's pretend I have powers to freeze, to become a lion, to fly, to walk through walls. Let's pretend this is my car, my house. Pretending is good.

But this is not what we are talking about. It is faith to believe in something so real, more real than life itself, more real than the things we can see and touch.

John Wesley struggled with the concept of faith and was finally told to preach faith until he had faith. Then he would preach faith because he had faith. That is what happened after his experience in Aldersgate.

In 1 Cor 13:12 "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known". People say, the real thing is money or you may say maybe problems. The truth is these things come and go. There is a reality of God. Responding to the conviction of the Holy Spirit by believing is the first step. Secondly you choose that your life will be based on that reality. You start to walk with God. Not toward Him, not leaving Him behind and dragging Him to follow you. But walking with God.

The word "walk" is the biblical expression for "fellowship and obedience". You turn to God not only when you have nowhere else to turn, but you live your life in obedience to His Word and fellowship. You learn not only to talk to Him but to listen. You learn to recognize his voice in many voices you hear in your head every single day. You learn what God's will is for your life and you give your life to Him. It is a growing experience. In the beginning it can be hard and awkward. There are times when you just not feel it. But faith is not based on any of this. Choosing to believe, choosing to live by faith and to be willing to change.

In my youth group there was a very smart girl. She always had questions that I would have to think or even go home and look for an answer. She helped me to answer questions to other youth about faith and God. But something started to change. One day she finally talked to me. She said, she no longer believed in God. She said, she truly needed God to prove her that He exists. She prayed God would give her any sign, that He truly hears and cares for her. She said, there was nothing, absolutely

nothing. I had many walks and talks with her. God does not function by our rules. He is God. He is not thinking the way we think. We cannot put God in box. We cannot make God to do what we want for just our own sake. Maybe “walking with God” is just a nice metaphor for you.

I know God’s presence, God’s voice and His Spirit is a true reality for those who seek and earnestly stick, every day, to God’s word. Let God to be God. God’s will for you is that you believe.

What is your destination in life? Which direction you are heading? When problems are very real and money is just not there. Who is giving you comfort and strength? How do you choose what to do and where to go? Enoch walked with God faithfully for hundreds of years. He had more kids and lived in the world that definitely was not godly or holy. For a life time he walked with God in this world. We tend to think it is much easier to walk on our own. Then suddenly we remember we need God, and try to find Him, so he can help us in the particular situation or need we have. Sometimes we see God far away, and we just doing the best to get there. But God is not behind, nor he is ahead, He is and wants to be with you every step and breath of your life.

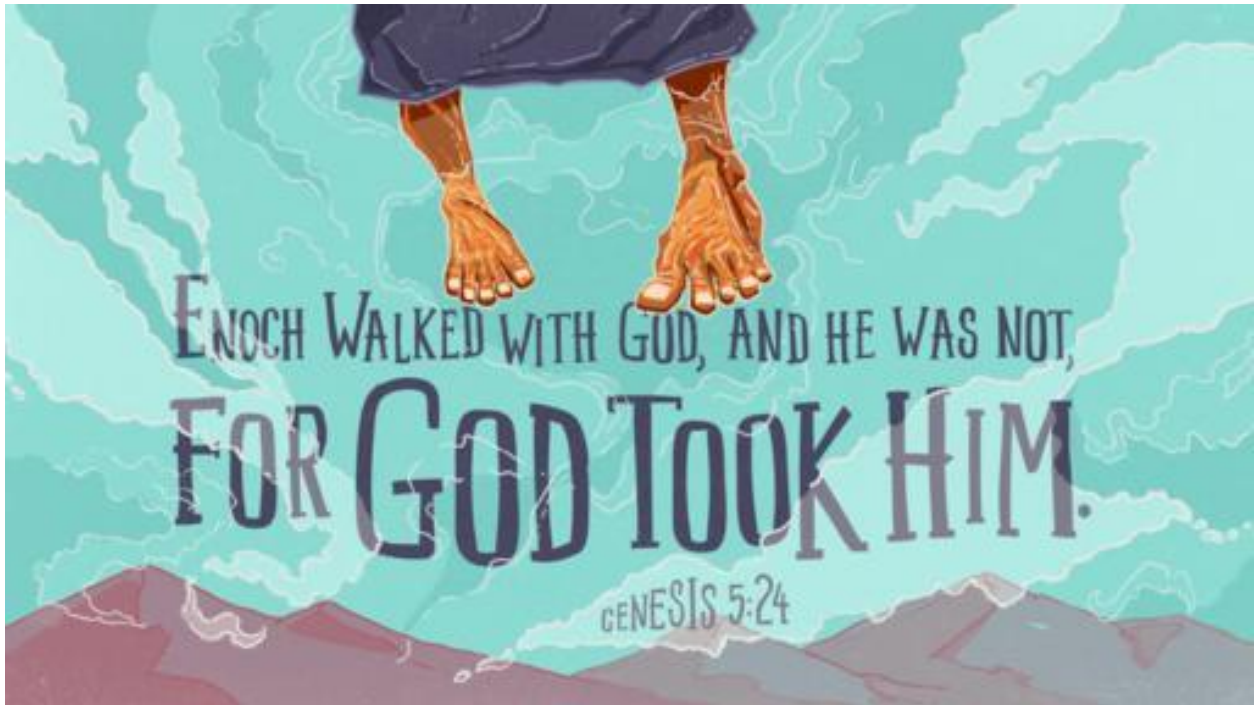
Micah sums up our walking with God. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Walk humbly with God. Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Can you act justly and love mercy if you do not walk with God. I do not think so. The reason, the power, the outcomes belongs to God.

There is a reality of God and there is another way to live. There is no way you can change your life. Walking with God starts with your choice to believe something unbelievable. It is your choice to live your life at work, at home, with friends and relative and with all strangers by the strength and wisdom of God. Start today walking, slowly or rapidly, long or short, with our heavenly Father. Walk by faith Him.

The first line of the hymn “Trust and Obey” is “When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world: he who follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”

“Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”



Isn't that amazing. Suddenly Enoch was no longer here, he was so close to God and His kingdom that he just went straight from this world to another. His soul became so connected to God and God just took Him. I would think, wow, what do you have to DO, to get to heaven? There is nothing not a word about Enoch works, service or things he achieved. No, he walked faithfully with God for 300 years. That's it. And then no more. God took him.

How many people do we know from the Bible who were taken straight to heaven. Just two: Enoch and Elijah. I probably will not be taken straight to heaven, but I desire to live a life walking with God. I want so much to have that fellowship and faithfulness with my Father that all I do and all I say flows out of that relationship. Walk with God, take a first step today. And maybe two steps tomorrow. Make your life walking and talking with God. No fear, no anxiety, just walking with God.



I was incorrect. There was a third person in the Bible who went directly to heaven. This difference was this person both tasted death and also was taken up into heaven. We gather each Sunday to worship this person, who showed us how to walk with God. We wait expectantly because he was promised to come back in the same way he left. He already sent the paraclete (which is Greek meaning "Along-side person") to walk with us each moment of every day.

The following hymn is # 2196 in the of "The Faith We Sing" hymnal. Let us read it together make it our prayer.

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe Him near.

2 We may not touch His hands and side,
nor follow where He trod;
but in His promise we rejoice
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on You when You are near
and seek where You are found.

4 That, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light,
may we behold You as You are,
with full and endless sight.