

Walk After Me : Lesson 6 Homework

Day 1: Scripture Memorization + Walking

In small group, we spent time looking at some of the references in the Bible to the word “walk.” Walking is an action. It requires effort and takes you somewhere. It is something we do every day. When we are instructed to *walk* in God’s ways, it means that God’s laws are more than just mental propositions, they have a physical, practical application. Their applications are to be kept and to be observed in our life on a daily basis as we interact with other people and God’s creation. We have to observe or keep God’s laws, we have to “walk” in them, in order to become more like Him. The character God is creating in us does not become ours unless His way is put into practice.

One of the ways He promises for us to become more like Him is to hide His word in our heart. David, the Psalmist says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” In other words, when His word is in our heart, we are less likely to get off the path. We are less likely to walk after other things. Scripture memory is largely a lost art but let’s revive it! It is a valuable tool for walking like Jesus.

Take the verse you were given in small group time and write it on a few 3x5 cards. If you cannot remember yours, there is a list at the end of this lesson. Place your cards in easily seen places as you go throughout your day. Put it on your mirror, on your refrigerator, on your desk, on your computer screen or make it your lock screen on your phone. Commit to memorizing it before you meet with your group the next time.

Lastly, take some time today to go for a walk. Bring one of your memory cards. As you are walking, think about the metaphor of walking and how it applies to life. Think about your steps and how they are deliberately taking you somewhere. Think about your path, the way you have chosen to walk. As a consecutive collection of small steps eventually take you to a destination, so every small decision in your life will eventually shape who you are. As you walk, repeat your memory verse in your mind as a prayer of commitment. Let’s be a people that walk as Jesus walked.

Day 2: Exploration + Contemplation - Convert or Disciple?

What is the difference between a convert and a disciple?

Do you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

Come back with me to our third lesson, City Gates, where we discussed the differences between an Eastern and Western mindset. The difference between a convert and a disciple highlights the differences between these two cultural viewpoints. The idea of being a convert lends itself largely to the western mindset while the idea of being a disciple is more readily understood through an eastern lens. A convert is defined as one who adopts a certain set of religious beliefs. This fits the western culture where prescribed propositions, logic and correct thinking define the individual. In contrast, a disciple is someone who not only believes in their mind the person and propositions of Jesus but is also committed to the outward expression of the walk that Jesus walked.

הלכה (halakhah) : “the way of walking” or “how to walk”

In the west, when we study the Bible, we often use books that we call commentaries. Commentaries illustrate the western mindset in that they are books filled with academic “comments” regarding the various texts in the Bible. In the Jewish (eastern) world, when they study the text, they use a set of books called halakhah. Halakhah is a Hebrew word rooted in the word halak which means “to walk.” Halakhah is not based on mental comments telling you how to think about the text. Instead, it is filled with practical interpretations and instructions on how to walk (live) the text.

A convert is someone who ascribes to a certain set of ideas and a disciple is someone who is holistically sold out to claiming Jesus as their rabbi, studying His words, internalizing His mission and living just like Jesus. Both are important! Believing right theology informs how we walk. But if we neglect the outward manifestations of right doctrine, we fall into danger as Paul says, “faith without works is dead.”

After reading, what would you change about your answer to the question above: Would you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?

Jesus wants to be our rabbi! A rabbi is someone whose disciples followed him 24/7, 365 in order to learn how to walk. Jesus died and rose again to give us the gift of salvation; to be our Lord and Savior! He also lived a life, for 33 years, to teach us and show us how to walk. What would change in your life if you also saw Jesus as your rabbi?

Days 3 + 4: Scripture Study + Meditation

If we do not know what Jesus says and do not study the gospels to examine how He lived, we won't know what it means to "walk as Jesus walked". Jesus' most important message about His kingdom is found in the passage we worked through in the last lesson, the Sermon on the Mount. Previously we looked at it to examine what the Father was like. This time, let's broaden our observation to include all of the colors as we examine the marks of those that walk after Him. Take the next few days to read through and mark up Jesus' sermon in Matthew 5-7.

Blue: What is Jesus like? How does He work? What is His character?

Green: What does Jesus promise?

Orange: What does Jesus ask of us?

Pink: What is worthy of prayer and pursuit in your life?

Day 5: Prayer

As the week comes to an end, take the opportunity to live into the spiritual discipline of prayer. There is no way we can be like Jesus without a deep, personal relationship with Him and the power of His holy spirit.

Begin by praying Scripture and focusing on God and who he is. Create space to ponder some of the things He might be asking of you. Here are some prompts that may help:

- Thank God for sending Jesus and the characteristics of His kingdom found in the Sermon on the Mount (maybe the things you underlined in blue).
- What did you underline in orange? Is there anything you saw that He is asking of you? How are you doing with those things?
- Recall His promises and pray them back to Him (Did you underline anything from this passage in green?). Ask Him to bring His kingdom for you and your community in keeping with all He has promised.
- Pray over the things He has revealed to you (the things you underlined in pink). Ask for His help in all He has ordained for you.

Conclude by asking Him for an extra measure of the Holy Spirit so that you can be empowered to live according to His Kingdom values spelled out in the Sermon on the Mount. In addition, pray for the requests of your small group or other people you love that God brings to mind.

*Recommended reading prior to the next lesson: **Mark 4:35-5:20**

Matthew 5-7, The Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Murder

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Eye for Eye

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor⁴⁴ and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Giving to the Needy

⁶ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer

⁵ “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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Judging Others

⁷ “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. ⁶ “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Ask, Seek, Knock

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

The Narrow and Wide Gates

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

True and False Prophets

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

True and False Disciples

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name, drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,
so, we too may walk in the newness of life.

Romans 6:4

For this reason, we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you
and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and
understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all
respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of
the Lord and on that law, he meditates day and night.

Psalms 1:1

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love,
just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us,
an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2

The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you,
if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.

Deuteronomy 28:9

So, I say this, and affirm in the Lord, that you are to no longer walk just as the Gentiles also
walk, in the futility of their minds, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the
life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.

Ephesians 4:17-18

“Walk” Verses for Memorization

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world;
the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

John 8:12

So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15

Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith,
just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.
Colossians 2:6

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord;
walk as children of light.
Ephesians 5:8

For we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7