

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Walk With Others

Definition: Walks are often enjoyed with other people. It's great to be able to talk about what you are seeing, feeling, and hearing. As we walk with God, He also intends for us to help others WALK more closely with Him. This approach covers mentoring, connecting with others, seeing opportunities and handling challenges together.

Audio Segment: Walk With Others – Crawford Loritts

Segment Questions:

- What experiences have you had where it was obvious that God put someone in your mind and heart that you felt you needed to “walk” with? As you look back at your spiritual journey, please share someone who has “walked” **with you** and been a spiritual mentor to you?
- As Paul states in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (see back page), besides the gift of encouragement, what other gifts do you think are critically important to mentor or walk with others? What are your specific spiritual gifts that others might find comfortable in walking with you?
- Matthew 18:20 talks about the power of two or three people meeting in His name. What does this mean to you? Any daily/weekly examples of this type of impact?
- Ephesians 2:10 says that we are created in Christ Jesus to do good work which God has prepared in advance for us. Does this encourage/challenge you to look for more opportunities to “walk with others” or is walking alone with God good enough? If not, what are you prepared to do to identify, notice and pray for others that would welcome someone they could “walk” with . . . like you!

Action Questions:

- Could you or would you say “yes” if someone asked you directly or indirectly to mentor them? If not, why are you uncomfortable doing so?
- What spiritual leadership skills do you need to learn that would help you feel more comfortable with mentoring?
- Walking with God involves much more than reading and studying with only yourself in mind. He wants you to “GO” (Matthew 28:19) and be a part of changing the lives of those around you. Is there any particular person that God has put on your heart for you to be intentional to reach out to? If so, would you be willing to reach out this week? If you need help, think about those at work, in your neighborhood, in your family.

PERSONAL APPLICATION: As Billy Graham said, “If you had the cure for cancer, wouldn't you want to share it with all who would listen? We have the cure for all the challenges of our world. Let's go fill up heaven with the answer.” Are you encouraged or challenged enough by this lesson and the discussion that you will specifically ask God to put people in your midst to walk with?

Walk with Others

I had volunteered to take a shift ringing the Salvation Army bell at College Mall five or so years ago. While I was there, I saw a young man that I had known, not necessarily well, and that I had not seen or talked to for years.

We engaged in a conversation but it was obvious to me he was going through quite a few life challenges. I mentioned that maybe we could get together sometime but without scheduling a specific time. Two days later I ran into him in the parking lot of our office and then, a few days after that, I saw him again at a downtown restaurant. Three times in one week! If there was any doubt in my mind that God had wanted us to connect, there wasn't any more.

Subsequently we got together and have formed a relationship in which we are truly walking through life together.

Since then, God continues to bring people into my life that He makes it clear that He wants me to be involved.

Truly there is no more important opportunity to show and share Christ's love than to walk with others. And, "as iron sharpens iron, so does man sharpen man" experiences occur, we ourselves become more refined and prepared for future "walks" with others . . . and often as we are in a position to sharpen others, we are the one who is being sharpened in the midst of that relationship. We also must be encouraged that we aren't just helping one person that we are walking with but the trickle down effect this walk will most likely have with their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that might be, in turn, impacted for eternity.

The following are some scriptures that I believe focus on some very important truths about walking with others.

1 Thessalonians 5: 11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 18: 20 - For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Ephesians 2: 10 - For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Matthew 28:19 - Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you to. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.