

WALK AND TALK WITH JESUS

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, March 1, 2020

The scriptures today come from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is telling his disciples and the crowds what is expected of them if they are going to walk in his footsteps. They would have been familiar with Leviticus 19:18 that says “love your neighbor as yourself.”

This teaching of Jesus goes much further. Jesus is telling us that God loves all people the righteous and the unrighteous. We are not to only walk, encourage, assist and support those who like us and agree with us - but all people. We are not to show hatred and retaliate against our enemy but rather pray for them and lift them up. How much better would our walk with Jesus be if we replaced our hatred with kindness and our name calling and ridicule with prayer?

Matthew chapter 5 finishes by saying “Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect.” What a heavy order! We are to imitate the God we worship. We are to step out of our comfort zone. We may start with hesitant steps – showing kindness in a world where hate is shown more often. We can work together to bring healing, unification and peace to others who are badly in need of a friend. We are to strive to walk beside Jesus – imitating, glorifying, and praising him.

The lyrics of the song “*Walk and Talk with Jesus*” (author anonymous) help to sum up this passage of scripture:

Verse 1

I want to walk and talk with Jesus each and every day
I want my life to be an example for Him in every way
I want to treat my brothers the way that Jesus wants me to
Because He said “Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you”

Chorus

I want Him to shower me with His blessings from up above
and rock me, rock me, rock me in the cradle of love.

Verse 2

I want Him to lead me and guide me in everything I say and do
In His service I want Him to choose me and use me I do – don't you
What a wonderful Counselor, Mighty Prince of Peace is HE
And all I want each day is just a closer walk with thee.

Prayer: O Lord help me during this Lenten season as I walk and talk with you. Help me to identify the ways that I can draw nearer to you and show kindness to everyone.

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