

Introduction and Overview (Genesis 5)

If someone said to me there are five things that you have to do in order to be a great husband, I would want to listen to what he said. I want to love Karen just as Christ loves the church, so I would want to take note of those five things and make sure that I was doing them. If God said to me, there are three things required of you in order to love Karen like I love the church, I would want to sit down and listen to what the Lord would share with me.

This morning is not about marriage, and there are not five things or three things for us to learn about marriage. I love marriage and I love to talk about marriage. But, what I have to share with you this morning is just as important. Last year as I was considering and praying through different message series to preach, I was drawn to two passages. The first passage is Deuteronomy 10:12-13, and the second passage is Micah 6:8. In Deuteronomy God tells us five things that He requires of us. We are to fear the Lord, walk in all His ways, love the Lord, serve the Lord, and keep His commandments. These are five very important things for us to be aware of because God requires them from us. The second passage is similar. In Micah God tells us three things that He requires of us. We are to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. The lists are similar but not exactly the same. One thing that both lists mention is walking. In Deuteronomy, we are told to walk in all His ways. In Micah, walking in His ways would be doing justice and loving kindness. In Micah, we are told to walk humbly with our God. In the list of five and the list of three, walking with God is mentioned. I think that walking with God is one of the most important things in life we should do. I am excited this morning to share with you this very important message about walking with God.

(Deut 10:12-13) “Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, {13} and to keep the LORD’S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?”

(Micah 6:8) “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

We are studying Genesis, not Deuteronomy or Micah. We are not talking about five or three points about marriage. But, we are going to talk about a key to our marriage with God. It is one of three or one of five things that He requires of us. We are in Genesis 5 and this chapter gives the lineage of Adam to Noah. It is also an introduction to Noah. The next few chapters of Genesis are God’s dealings with Noah and his family. In the first three verses of Genesis 5, we have a review of the first four chapters of Genesis. The remainder of the chapter gives the lineage from Adam to Noah’s sons. I am going to briefly give an overview of Genesis 5 in this introduction, but then I am going to zoom in on verses 23-24, which talk about Enoch. Let’s read our text.

(Gen 5:1-5 “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. {2} He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. {3} When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. {4} Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he had other sons and daughters. {5} So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.”

(Gen 5:6-20) “Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the father of Enosh. {7} Then Seth lived eight hundred and seven years after he became the father of Enosh, and he had other sons and daughters. {8} So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died. {9} Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan. {10} Then Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years after he became the father of Kenan, and he had other sons and daughters. {11} So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died. {12} Kenan lived seventy years, and became the father of Mahalalel. {13} Then Kenan lived eight hundred and forty years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he had other sons and daughters. {14} So all the days of Kenan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died. {15} Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Jared. {16} Then Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Jared, and he had other sons and daughters. {17} So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died. {18} Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and became the father of Enoch. {19} Then Jared lived eight hundred years after he became the father of Enoch, and he had other sons and daughters. {20} So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.”

(Gen 5:21-24) “Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. {22} Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. {23} So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. {24} Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”

(Gen 5:25-32) “Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech. {26} Then Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years after he became the father of Lamech, and he had other sons and daughters. {27} So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died. {28} Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. {29} Now he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the LORD has cursed." {30} Then Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years after he became the father of Noah, and he had other sons and daughters. {31} So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died. {32} Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”

The average life span from Adam through Shem was 834 years. The average life span without Enoch, who did not die a natural death, was 881 years. The mean life span was 908 years. The longest life was Methuselah, who lived 969 years. The shortest was Enoch, who lived 365 years on earth before the Lord took him. If we give creation a date of year 0, then Adam was born in 0, and he lived to be 930 years old. Methuselah was born in 687 and died in 1656. Noah was born in 1056 and died in 2006. So, Methuselah overlapped Adam by 243 years. Methuselah overlapped Noah by six hundred years.

This is important because the account from creation to Noah only needed one person to connect Adam to Noah. Noah died in the 2,006th year after creation. Noah was still alive when Abraham was born. Noah was able to give Abraham his personal account of everything from the 1,056th year till the time of Abraham. He was able to tell him about the flood. He was able to tell him about the tower of Babel.

In addition to Methusaleh, there were numbers of other witnesses who could attest to what had happened. Adam had already died when Noah was born, but Enosh, Adam's grandson, had been with Adam for 695 years. Noah and Enosh were able to spend eighty-four years together. So, there is great historical preservation in what happened through what was passed down from Enosh through Noah to Abraham.

Our text today begins, "This is the book (Sepher, Strong's H5612, missive, document, writing) of the generations..." Sepher is used 185 times in the Bible. In Exodus 17:14, the Lord told Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial..." The Bible is the earliest and oldest manuscript in existence. God established and preserved truth from the very beginning. Here we have the first written document of what transpired. It was based on first-hand witnesses and personal accounts, very much like the book of Luke and Acts. The author of the first five books is Moses, but we do not know if Adam had written things down or if someone else between Adam and Moses wrote things down. We have a great number of eye-witness accounts, and we also have the written documents of the generations. This is significant in regard to validating the Bible.

This lineage is also important for validating the age of the world. All of these people have specific lengths of time that they lived. For those that say the account in Genesis is not literal, they do not have a way around the specific ages and the time line given here in this chapter. We know that the world is approximately six thousand years old. We know when the world platelets moved and the continents separated. All that took place in the life of Peleg. All of these facts prove that evolution is false and that the Bible is accurate.

In our lineage today, God gives the same information about each person. If someone was creating a database, there are seven fields that every entry has. The first entry is the name of the person. The second field is the number of years the man lived before becoming a father to the son carrying the lineage. The third field is name of the son in the lineage. The fourth field is the number of years the person lived after having that son. The fifth field says, "and he had other sons and daughters." The sixth field gives the total number of years the person lived. The seventh and final field says that the person died.

I have given you the overview of the chapter, so I am now going to zoom in on Genesis 5:21-24, which tells us about Enoch. In verse 22, "Enoch walked with God for three hundred years." Then, in verse 24, "Enoch walked with God, and was not, for God took him." This stands out because it is mentioned twice. Second, it stands out because it is different than the pattern of all the other verses. All the other people lived a certain number of years after the son who would carry the lineage was born. But, with Enoch, it says that he was not, for God took him. Third, Enoch did not die like the rest of the people in the chapter. Since, Enoch stands out, we are going to look at what he did that was so special. I have named the message Walking With God, and there are three points. First, we will see that walking with God is dynamic. Second, we will see that walking with God is relational. Third, we will see that walking with God is transformational.

(Gen 5:22-24) "Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years{24} Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."

Walking With God

1. Walking With God Is Dynamic
2. Walking With God Is Relational
3. Walking With God Is Transformational

1. Walking Is Dynamic

Why do I say that walking with God is dynamic. Dynamic is the opposite of static, which means something is at rest or not in motion. The dictionary defines dynamic as energy or effective action. In science, dynamic is a force in motion. In Hebrew, the word is halak (Strong's H1980), and it is used 1,558 times in the Old Testament. It means to flow, continue, or walk. In Genesis 2, there were four rivers, and the third river was the Tigris, and it flowed east of Assyria. The word flow is halak, the same one that is translated as walk in our passage. A river is a force in motion and the water is moving continuously. Someone who walks with God is moving forward with God continuously. Walking with God is not a one-time experience that is static thereafter. Walking with God is a continuous, flowing, moving forward together life. Notice that Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. He continued with God for three hundred years.

(Gen 2:14) "The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows (halak) east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates."

In Genesis 12:9, Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. The phrase, going on, is halak. Abram journeyed and continued on toward the south. When we walk with God, we are continuing to go with Him.

(Gen 12:9) "And Abram journeyed, going on (halak) still toward the south."

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said, "follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus did not ask those fishermen, who would become His disciples, pray this prayer and then go do your own thing. He asked them to follow Him. He was asking them to continue with Him, walk with Him, and to go with Him everywhere He went. Notice that the disciples left their nets and followed Jesus. They went with Him. They continued with Him.

(Matt 4:19-20) "And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." {20} Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

Notice in Luke 14:27 that Jesus said, "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." To be a disciple of Jesus means that we follow after Him. In Matthew 16:24, we have a similar thought. Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Have you picked up your cross? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, and have you confessed Him as your Lord? Are you following Him. Being born again is a one-time event, but the proof of being born again is that you are following after God. Are you continuing with God? Are you flowing with God? Are you following after God. These are things that a disciple of Jesus does.

2. Walking Is Relational

Walking with God is dynamic, continuous, and ongoing. There is nothing static or passive about it. Walking is also relational. I believe that Enoch had a fantastic relationship with God. He was a friend of God. In Hebrews we read that God took Enoch up, for he obtained the witness that before being taken up he was pleasing to God. Enoch sought after God. Relationships require pursuit. We saw that a few weeks ago when we looked at the word cleave, which means to overtake by pursuit. Enoch pursued God and he was pleasing to God.

(Heb 11:5-6) “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. {6} And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Karen and I used to take walks together in college. I did not have any money and we did things that did not cost us much or anything. We would walk and talk. We developed a tremendous friendship because of our walks and talks. When we lived in Florida, we took walks every evening. We were both very busy. Karen was busy with raising a large family and I was busy managing a golf resort and being an associate pastor at a church. But, we walked and talked. We stayed engaged in one another’s lives in our walks.

In Luke 24, two men were walking together on the road to Emmaus. What were they doing? Luke records that “they were talking and discussing” the things that had happened. Walking with God is talking and discussing things throughout your daily life. It is asking questions. It is listening. It is sharing your thoughts. It is sharing your lives together. Notice what happens when Jesus joins them and begins walking with them. He enters into the conversation. He said to them, “what are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” Jesus began explaining things to them.

(Luke 24:13-17) “And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. {14} And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. {15} While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. {16} But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. {17} And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?”

Guess what, when you begin walking and talking with Jesus, He is going to ask you questions. He is also going to explain things to you. I was driving on Tuesday night to the CNM campus to pick up Joanna. All at once the Lord began to speak to me and give me understanding about why someone had done something. He gave me insight into some spiritual principles and then helped me see the application of those principles in someone’s life. When I got home, I was tired after a very long day, but I went to my laptop and began typing in the things that the Lord had shared with me. When you walk and talk with Jesus, I recommend that you journal. Write down the things that God shares with you. As you spend time with Him in the morning, write down the things that He shares with you. Journaling is a wonderful way of hearing from God, and also to remember the things that He shares with us.

In Amos 3:3, we are asked a question, “Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment.?” Some translations say, “unless they are in agreement?” If you are going to walk with God, it is important for you to make an appointment with Him. Find a time that will work for both of you. God is willing to meet with you at any time, so really it is finding a time that will work for you. Agree to walk and talk with God at that time. Make an appointment with God. Set your alarm clock and put it down in your daytimer. We have to be intentional with our relationships.

I have also found that it helps to have a plan when you meet with God. Some of the basics should include reading the Bible, praying, and worshipping. I have put some reading plans on our website under the Connection Tools. Praying is simply talking with God. We should talk to God about the things that are on our heart. We should spend time thanking God for what He has done for us. Psalms 103 tells us to bless the Lord and to forget not any of His benefits. Psalms 100 tells us to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Therefore, we should spend time thanking Him and praising Him in our prayers. We should talk to him about the needs in our life. We should also take time to listen to Him. Writing down your thoughts and impressions when you are meeting with the Lord is helpful in hearing from the Lord. In the future I plan on putting more tools on our website to help people connect with God. If you are just starting in your walk with God, ask Pastor Karen, Pastor Pamela, or myself and we will be happy to help you to develop a meeting plan.

(Psalm 103:2-5) “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; {3} Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; {4} Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; {5} Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.”

(Psalm 100:4) “Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”

The Apostle Paul prioritized His relationship with God. He said in Philippians 3:8, “I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,” If we are going to walk with God and grow in our relationship with Him, we must prioritize our time with Him.

3. Walking Is Transformational

Walking with God is dynamic and continual. Walking with God is relational. Third, Walking with God is transformational. Joanna and I were having a discussion on Tuesday night about my message today. I asked her what walking with God meant to her. One of the things that she said was that you become like the people that you spend time with. She mentioned one of her friends picks up plastic and glass containers and takes them to recycle bins. Her friend picked this up from Joanna, who is committed to recycling. Her friend picked up Joanna’s ways because she has spent a lot of time with her.

In Acts 4, Peter and John had been arrested and were now standing before the rulers, elders, and scribes. After Peter boldly shared the testimony of how Jesus healed the lame man, the Council was amazed. They understood that Peter and John were uneducated and untrained, but were preaching with great confidence and authority. Then, they recognized them as having been with Jesus. When you walk with Jesus, your life is transformed. Walking with God is transformational.

(Acts 4:13) “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”

We looked at Matthew 4:19 earlier, where Jesus asked the disciples to follow him. The second part of that verse is that Jesus was going to make them fishers of men. As they walked with Him, He was going to transform their lives.

(Matt 4:19) “And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

In Proverbs 4:18, we read that “the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter, brighter and brighter to the full day.” That path of the righteous is walking with God. He is our righteousness. He is Jehovah Tsidkenu, which means the Lord God of Righteousness. When we are walking with Him on the paths of righteousness, our lives will become brighter and brighter. Walking with Jesus is transformational.

When you set aside time to meet with God, His word will perform its work in you. When we look intently at God’s word, it changes us. When we renew our minds with His word, He transforms our lives. I love Jeremiah 15:16. It says, “Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” Because Jeremiah spent time eating God’s word, it transformed his life, and he was called by God’s name. Just like Peter and John, people will recognize that you have been with Jesus.

In 1983, I went out to Las Vegas to play in the Las Vegas Invitational, a PGA Tour event. There are lots of wrong things to do in Vegas, and I made a commitment to spend time at the course or in my hotel room. I spent hours and hours reading and meditating on the Scriptures, and journaling. In fact, it was that week that the Lord taught me how to meditate on Scripture. On our website under Connection Tools, I have put a document about how to meditate on Scripture. These tools are there to help us to connect with God. When I arrived back in Orlando, Florida, where we were living at the time, one of my friends told me that I was glowing. He asked what had happened to me. What had happened is that I spent lots of time with the Lord and like Moses, I was glowing. Our lives are transformed when we walk with the Lord.

In Ephesians 4:1, Paul implores us “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.” How do we walk in a worthy manner? We walk with God, and our lives will be lived in a worthy manner. In Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul exhorts us to be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you...” God is love and when we walk with God, we begin to imitate Him and walk in love. Paul says that we are beloved children. That means that we are children who are loved by God. When we walk with the God of love, we are transformed and begin to walk in love.

(Eph 5:1-2) “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; {2} 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.”

A few verses later in Ephesians 5:8, Paul tells us to walk as children of light. God is light, and when we walk with God, we are walking in the light. We are transformed when we walk with God. In 1 John 1:6-7, John says that if we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin.” When we walk with God and in His light, we are cleansed and transformed.

(Eph 5:8) “for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light,”

(1 John 1:6-7) “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; {7} but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Conclusion

This morning, we have looked at three truths about walking with God. We have seen that walking with God is dynamic and continuous. Our relationship with God is not a moment in the past; it is present and ongoing. It is not a season; it is a lifetime. Enoch walked with God for three hundred years on earth before the Lord took him. How is your walk today? Are you continuing with God, or did you get off the train a few stops ago. God is calling you to get back on the train and continue journeying with Him. Is your spiritual life dry and stale? God wants it dynamic and active. God is calling you today to begin following Him again.

Our walk with God is relational. Do you have a relationship with God? If not, we would welcome the opportunity to introduce you to Christ. He wants to know you, and He wants you to know Him. Paul counted everything in his life rubbish compared to knowing Christ. Knowing Christ is the most important priority in life. Are you making appointments to walk with God every day? Are you spending time in the word and in prayer? Are you spending time in worship? Spend time cultivating that relationship with God. Walking with God is relational.

Our walk with God is transformational. Is your life like the light of dawn and getting brighter and brighter until the full day? Is your life different this year than last year? Is your life different this year than five years ago? Is your life becoming more and more like Christ? I had an inmate many years ago named Tommy Glisson that I was mentoring. When he got out of prison, he wanted nothing to do with me or the church. I told Karen that I would be getting another call from Tommy, but it would be a collect call. Sure enough, a couple of months later I got a collect call from Tommy. He was back in jail and he wanted me to start working with him again. I told Tommy that I was there for one reason only, to see Christ formed in him. That is what God wants for all of us, to see our lives transformed and to become more like Him. Is your life being transformed? The key to transformation is walking with God. Are you walking with God?

This morning we are giving an altar call. If you would like prayer about your walk with God, let us pray for you this morning.

Genealogy From Adam to Abram

