

Community Church of Issaquah

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Living with Humility

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One of the Scripture passages last week was these words from the Prophet Micah. “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. The last of those three requirements is perhaps the most difficult for believers to follow. To be truthful, we don’t know how to be humble in our daily living, much less as we walk with the Lord. It’s tough, I know. Tough for me and tough for you. I used to use this example to try to define humility, but it doesn’t work.

A young woman from Alabama worked a difficult job as a secretary for airline company by her passion was writing. Work didn’t allow much time for her to write. Her friends collected enough money to pay her salary for a whole year so she could devote the time to writing. Harper Lee then wrote the book, “To Kill a Mockingbird.” It became a prize winning novel, but unfortunately today, some states have banned it because it tells the story of a wrongfully convicted black man and his white lawyer.

One passage from the novel, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” when Atticus, the white lawyer, tells his young daughter, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” As I was studying and preparing for the morning’s sermon, I tried my best to put myself into the shoes of either a pharisee or a tax collector. Try though I might, I just couldn’t quite make that work.

These are some thoughts I've had since our service last week, particularly about walking humbly with the Lord. I'll share those briefly because today's a busy service and the message needs to be shorter than usual. So here goes.

First, we must understand that God requires us to follow his instructions here. What does the Lord **require** of you? It's not an optional thing. It's as if God is saying, "walk with me," so get packed and ready. When we are called to be believers, these are God's instructions about how to live and how to follow Him. It's not something we can choose or decline, it's what is required.

But there's another part of this requirement that is your job. So, let me ask you, have you specifically told the Lord that you would do what he requires? Have you sat down somewhere in a quiet place or in your prayer time and actually told God you would walk with him. Likely most of us took the position that we are sure God knows we'll walk with Him. We don't have to make a commitment because we became followers of Jesus, His Son. Didn't God know that when we became Christians and made our profession of faith that walking with God was a part of the deal. My advice is that at some point in your life, you take the time to clarify with the Lord that you are more than willing to walk with him. Tell God.

Second, followers of the Lord need to find some clarification of what walking with God entails. Once we have committed fully to walk with the Lord in humility, it's wise to have a better understanding of where this walk will take us. If you thought that walking with God was something you were

going to get to do when you got to heaven, that is true, you will get to do that. But what about this walk we do every day in our earthly life?

Walking with God often means that we go where he is leading and is taking us along for that beautiful journey. I've had experiences in my life where I felt that God was taking me to some amazing places or leading me to meet some amazing people. God did that. He was the one who had taken my hand and let me walk with him in great joy. But there have also been times when I have felt that God is accompanying me as I walk some road that I have chosen. Each of us knows that there are some bad roads to be walked. The loss of a loved one or a very unhappy experience with someone else. The reality is that as we walk those paths, our own life road, God is walking along side us then, too. Sometimes we feel Him and sometimes we don't, but when we commit to walk humbly with our God, He never ever leaves us.

There's one more thought that came to me as I began to put thoughts on paper. And it's this. How often do we thank God for walking with us along our life's journey – every step of every day? It became clear to me that this is one of the things I have failed to do. Sometimes we just take for granted that God will always be there, and He will. When the Bible tells us to come before God with a thankful heart, this is one of the items that should always be on your thankful list. I won't ask you when the test time was you specifically thanked God for walking with you or walking with Him. My intent is not to embarrass you.

That never accomplished much. But what I will do is to ask that each of you consider these two things:

First, answer the call and respond to God's requirement that we walk humbly with Him. I mean at some time in your private or quiet time, tell Him that "Yes, Lord, I want to walk humbly with you and accept your commandment."

And second, at some time in the days ahead, take some time to personally thank God for walking with you. Be grateful. Could you do that? I hope so.