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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 2:3-6
Lesson #5
The Jesus walk
01/30/2022

<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Holiness</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">emphasis on purity of doctrine and deportment.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">hierarchical leadership</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Mercy</h2> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">emphasis on acceptance, openness and tolerance.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">decentralized leadership</p>
<p>Christian congregations tend to fall into two categories:</p>	

1 John 2

“3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we **keep His commandments**. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever **keeps His word**, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he **abides in Him** ought himself to **walk in the same manner** as He walked.”

A sign of an authentic Christian is walking in the same manner that Jesus walked.

2

Note what John does not mention as a sign of “knowing Christ”.

- **Conformity to a doctrinal tradition.**
- **Partaking of sacramental events - water baptism.**
- **Dramatic emotional encounter with God (second blessing or Spirit baptism).**
- **Faithful participation in a religious group.**


What does John mention?

“walk in the same manner that Jesus did”
“abide in him”, “keep His commandments”

3

Some practical questions.

- **Can we have assurance of authentic fellowship with God if we sin - fail to keep all his commandments?** (How is this consistent with what John just said in 1:8?)
- **Which “commandments” does John have in mind?** (Mosaic Law, avoiding Gentiles, sermon on the mount hyperboles, etc.)



4

Two challenges to orthodoxy in the early ch.

Colossians 2

“16 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Judaizers	The Law
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18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,”

Gnostics	Enlightenment
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5

What it does not mean!

• Living under the Law of Moses.

Galatians 4

“4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the Law**, 5 in order that He might **redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

• Living outside Apostolic teaching.

1 Corinthians 4:6

“so that in us you may learn not to **exceed what is written**, so that no one of you will **become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.**”

6

Jesus summarized kingdom ethics as one commandment with two rules.

Matthew 22

“36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And He said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.** 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

7

John echoes this teaching in ch.3.

1 John 3

“23 And this is His commandment, that we **believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another**, just as He commanded us. 24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

To love God is to “walk in the Spirit” - believe in His Son and love all who bear God’s image, starting within the community of faith
(Gal.6:10).

8

John indicates that the commandment is to love all those that God loves.

John 13

“34 A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another, even **as I have loved** you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The newness of the commandment has to do with two things:

1. **Jesus’ outward example**
2. **Jesus’ indwelling Spirit**

9

What does Jesus’ “walk” look like?

Luke 9

“57 And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “**The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**”

Following Jesus will mean living as an **alien** in this world.

10

An alien is a resident but not a citizen.

An immigrant is a citizen who was an alien.

Ephesians 2:19

“So then you are no longer strangers and **aliens**, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,”

Hebrews 11:13

“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were **strangers and exiles** on the earth.”

11

As aliens we should not expect to be comfortable in this world or with the things of it.



God had Israel “in “alien” status for most of its history in the O.T.!



“Alien walking” check list

- Am I **expecting** too much of “the wrong things” from this world?
- How much of my **security** is tied to this world?
- Are my **priorities** revealing an unhealthy attachment to this world?

What does Jesus’ “walk” look like?

Luke 9

“59 And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Permit me first to go and bury my father.” 60 But He said to him, “**Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.**””

Following Jesus will mean living as an **alien ambassador.**

An ambassador represents the **interests** of a foreign land.

Ambassadors are not legislators but they respect the laws as residents.

John 18:36

“Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.””

Matthew 22:21

“**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s** and to God the things that are God’s.”

“Ambassador walking” check list

- Am I more concerned about changing my circumstances than I am about my **response** to them?
- Are those who watch my life sensing a **joy, peace, & freedom** or fear, anger, and despair?
- Am I taking **responsibility** for things I can’t control?

1 Cor. 13:4-7

The WAY of the Cross

Love is a response to

patient trials
kind insults
not jealous success of others
does not brag success of self
is not arrogant power & authority
is not unbecoming freedom
not self seeking competition
is not provoked confrontation
holds no grudges injustice
does not rejoice failure of others
rejoices in the truth gossip & slander
bears all things losses
believes & hopes all things discouragement
endures all things delayed hopes

What does Jesus' "walk" look like?

Luke 9

"61 And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "**No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"

Following Jesus will mean living as an
**alien ambassador,
on a mission.**

18

Missional focus means
loose **attachments** to everything
but one's purpose and calling.

Matthew 6

"24 **No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. 25 For this reason I say to you, **do not be anxious for your life**, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?"

It is focused, faithful, and fearless.

19

Missional focus means
loose **attachments** to everything
but one's purpose and calling.

Ephesians 6

"18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, **that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

20

We have been led to believe that personal fulfillment is only possible if we submit to no one but self and the values of the age **not realizing that our deepest fulfillment is in submitting to something outside of & greater than self.**

**humans are
designed to
worship!**

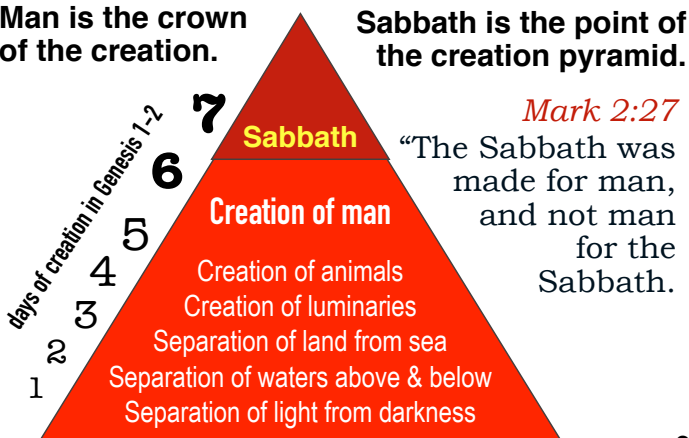


21

Humans are designed to worship.

Man is the crown of the creation.

Sabbath is the point of the creation pyramid.



22

**Worship comes
after God's work and before ours.**

**The question is not
do we work on the Sabbath
but do we bring the Sabbath
to our work.**

**Too many Christians
work at play, play at worship,
and worship at work.**

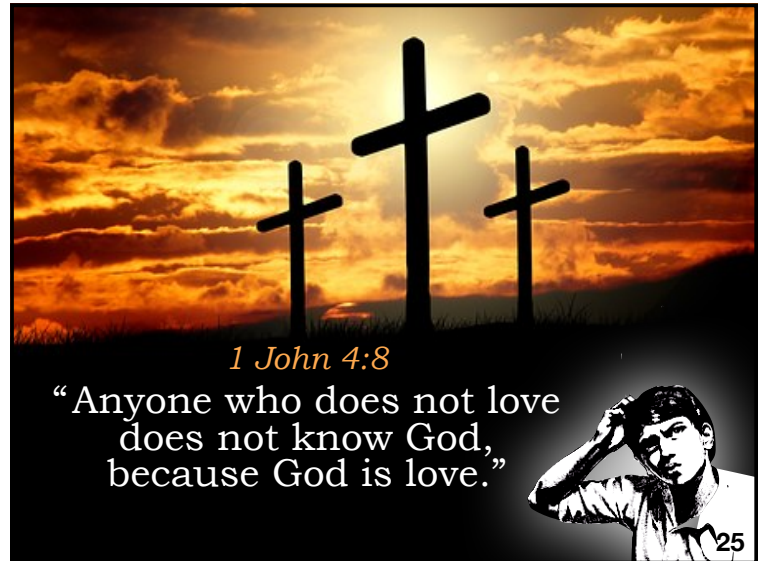
**We worship what we
make our greatest sacrifices to or for.**

23

“Missional walking” check list

- How is my life **different** from those who are not alien ambassadors, on a mission?
- What do my **big life decisions** reveal about my values and vision?
- How do I bring the **Sabbath** to my work?

24



How can I cultivate love?

- This is a **head, heart, hands** challenge (in that order).
- Love is not a gift, it is a **sign**. Pray for **courage**.
- Cultivating love for others starts with **“thankfulness”** to God.
- **Disattach** from worldly crutches, pain killers, priorities, and false hopes to free up your energy.
- Be somebody who helps somebody **feel like somebody**.
- Move toward another’s soul with a **commitment** to help them reach the deepest desires of their heart.
- **Listen** to concerns, **Overlook** liabilities, **Value** assets, **Empathize** with joys & sorrows of others.

26



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