

Walking With God (The Begatitudes) 10-29-06

Read Genesis chapter 5.

The book of Genesis gives us an account of the primeval patriarchs. In chapter four we looked at the creative but notorious lineage of Cain. Now we move to the lineage of Seth. Eve gave us a clue that this line of Seth is the line of the promise when she said, "God has given me a seed in the place of Able whom Cain killed." This record of who descended from whom was very important to the Hebrews. Why should you care? Your spiritual freedom is dependent on the survival of the line of Seth. This is the long route that YHWH took to redeem you and me. (Genesis 3:15)

Genesis is divided up by these linear genealogies ending in the person to whom the following stories are about. By the word "linear" I mean only one descendent among many in each generation is named. This genealogy and the one in Genesis 11 both give an account of ten generations ending in an important character in the history of the Hebrews and mankind in general. The writer is focusing in on the line from which the Redeemer will come.

This genealogy in chapter 5 begins by harkening back to the creation. It is telling us that in spite of everything that has taken place in between, the fall of man, the murder of righteous Abel, and the depravity of Cain's lineage, the image of God and the purposes of God are still being carried out. Does that speak to us today?

¹ This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. What follows is the line of Seth. Adam's other son, Cain, is left out of the picture, as if to nullify that line by ignoring it from this point forward. The same is true of his other sons and daughters who remain unnamed. Remember, we are leading up to a dramatic judgment upon the earth when all that will remain is this one line through Noah.

We are reminded that man is made in the likeness of God. We went over several ideas about the likeness, but I'd want to add more from Ray Steadman. In the first chapter of Genesis we see several things about the nature and character of God. The first is that He is creative. He is the Creator of all things. Perhaps one of the ways in which we are like Him is in our ability to be creative. We can paint, write poetry, come up with new ideas, and invent things to help us deal with our world in ways that are far beyond all animal life. As intelligent as some animal life is, no animal will come up with something as simple as a wheel or using fire.

Another thing we see about God is that He can judge between what is good and what is not good. Man is given that same ability. (John 7:24) He knew it was wrong to disobey God and eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He knew he had done wrong when he did so. They had a sense of shame when they did what they knew was wrong. (Isaiah 7:15) Their lying to God about what had happened was evidence that they knew they had chosen what was wrong and that that wrong must be judged. We have the ability to discern good from evil. We can numb ourselves to that ability; nevertheless, it is innate in us all.

Commented [notes1]: 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
Gen 3:15 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: 24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."
John 7:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 15 He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.
Isaiah 7:15 (NIV)

God gives out sentences of justice on evil deeds. He is just. In a similar way most people recognize that evil must be punished. Modern philosophy is trying to get away from this character of God, but it cannot banish from our hearts the sense of wrong in allowing crime to go unpunished. This is why Cain and Lamech feared reprisal. They both knew someone would sense the need to balance the books. All of these characteristics of God are reflected to some degree within mankind. As we begin the lineage of Seth we are reminded of the reflection of God still resident in us in spite of the fall.

We are also in God's image in that we are relational beings. There is an intimate relationship between the Father, the Son and the Spirit and even with man. We are beings created with the ability to enter into that intimate relationship. (Psalm 139:23) We have creativity, a sense of right and wrong, know wrong should be punished, and a desire for intimacy. Seth's line allowed this likeness expression.

² *He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."* In spite of the fall they are blessed. We see that blessing in the last chapter in the birth of Seth. The promises of God are still in effect even though Adam's children weren't perfect. They were still in effect when Cain yielded to the Destroyer and took His brother's life. When God gave Seth to Eve, He was keeping His promise, and He will keep His promises to us in spite of the mistakes, intentional sin, and waywardness of our children. He always gives us hope and a sign that He is at work. He blessed them, and He blesses us. (2 Timothy 2:13)

Notice that He called "them" man, Adam. A woman usually takes the name of her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, just as the first couple was called Mr. and Mrs. Adam. Now you know why we preachers end a wedding ceremony by saying, "May I present to you Mr. and Mrs...." Male and female were created to be one.

³ *When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.* This verse is important in that it relays to us that image of God that Adam bore was carried on through his children and on through their children down to us today. Lamech may have chosen to use his creative ability to use a tool as a weapon; he may have hardened his sense of right and wrong and chosen what was wrong; he may have taken his sense of justice and demanded he alone be free from it, but he still had the likeness of God within him. Seth on the other hand lived out that likeness in positive ways. The text ignores Cain and his descendants being in the likeness of God because they perverted it, but it reminds us that Seth was in the likeness of Adam and therefore of God because he expressed it. What are you doing with the likeness of God in you? What are you doing with creativity, your sense of right and wrong, your sense of justice, and your ability to have an intimate relationship with God? Are you expressing it? (James 2:26)

As we read through the genealogy, did you notice the pattern? There are two repeated themes throughout. Each became a father to someone and had other sons and daughters. They are fulfilling God's plan in being blessed through being fruitful and multiplying. We see God blessing each generation with children. Children are a

Commented [notes4]: 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Psalms 139:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes5]: 13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.
2 Tim 2:13 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.
James 2:26 (NIV)

blessing from the Lord. (Psalm 127:3) These ancient people were of purer genetic strains than we are today. Pollution and genetic degradation have reduced our life span and productiveness. Don't feel that God has withheld His blessing from you if you have not been able to have children. We live in a fallen world that is **not** evolving into something better but devolving as it did toward the end of these ten generations. As productive as they were, there would have been quite a population at the end of ten generations. A rough estimate of 8 children per couple would be 8.5 million by the time of the flood. If you add another generation or two because of Noah's age at the time of the flood and there could have been up to 100 million people.

Commented [notes7]: 3 Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Psalms 127:3 (NIV)

This brings us to one of the problems that people have with this genealogy, the long ages of these patriarchs. There have been a number of explanations. Some believe that it is similar to the ancient Sumerian records that give the ages of a dynasty not individuals. Others believe that like the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew, the insignificant people in the line are skipped over so that these in Genesis 5 are only the main or notable people, and son of actually means descendent of. The problem is that the text clearly gives us the age of the person at the time of the birth of the next person and then the years they lived until their death.

One possible explanation is that the earth's conditions before the flood and the pure early forms of DNA actually allowed man to live to these ripe old ages. If there was water above the heavens that we read about in Genesis one, (Genesis 1:7) perhaps it filtered out the harmful effects of the solar radiation. The increased oxygen levels caused by higher atmospheric pressure may have helped as well. You might think that a life span eight times your own would be great, but a longer life was not necessarily a good thing as we will see next week.

Commented [notes8]: 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. Gen 1:7 (NIV)

The next thing we notice is that the sentence of death continued. (Romans 5:17) It was a generational reminder that sin had consequences. They fathered children and they lived so many years and died. The phrase repeated again and again gives us a sense of futility. We labor and hope and have children and then we die. Life is fatal. But there was one blazing exception, Enoch.

Commented [notes9]: 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17 (NIV)

Just as the seventh from Adam on Cain's side showed the worst distortion of the image of God, so the seventh one from Adam on Seth's side showed the potential to bear the image. ²⁴ *Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.* This gives us an idea of how abbreviated the early portions of Genesis are. We have to look at other Scripture to find anything out about this mysterious man who never died. The wording of the verse reminds us of the experience of Adam and Eve in the Garden. They walked with God in the cool of the day. (Genesis 3:8) Apparently, everyone in any age can walk with God if they so choose. In Genesis we have record of one other man that walked with God outside of Eden, Noah. (Genesis 6:9)

Commented [notes10]: 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Gen 3:8 (NIV)

Just what does that mean to walk with God? Let's look at a few more passages about Enoch. ¹⁴ *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly*

Commented [notes11]: 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Gen 6:9 (NIV)

way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude 1:14-15 (NIV)

He was a prophet of doom. He was warning everyone of the impending judgments of God. This also gives us an idea of what was happening in the rest of the world. The other sons and daughters of Adam were going the way of Cain. (Jude 1:11) They were doing ungodly things and speaking against God. Apparently Enoch was the kind of person that refused to give in to his surrounding culture. While everyone else was justifying sin and blaming God for the consequences of sin, Enoch walked with God. He spoke the truth, though it certainly would have made him an outcast. (1Peter 5:17)

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Hebrew 11:5 (NIV) He was a man of faith. He believed in the unseen. Then next verse in Hebrews 11 tells us that faith pleases God. (Hebrews 11:6) Enoch pleased God. He wasn't a man pleaser, but a God pleaser. He was more concerned with what God thought of him than what man thought. (Galatians 1:10) He expressed the image of God with a focus on intimacy with God.

That is all we have to go on to tell us about this mystery man, but it is enough. We know his message. "Get right with God, because He will come in judgment and deal with our rebellious acts and words." We know his driving force was faith, for He walked with the unseen God. That walk was so real that it didn't matter to him what man thought of him. That walk made him a counter-cultural oddity, but it also made him a God pleasing wonder. He was a saint who knew what God wanted to say to that generation. He had a wife and children like most other people, but his walk with God was how you would sum up his life. That was what added the punch to his message. He lived like he believed what he preached. (1Timothy 4:12)

Enoch's life span comes about half way between Adam and the flood. His message makes me wonder if he was perhaps the instrument of revival. His ancestors had called on the name of the Lord. (Genesis 4:26) They were passing away about the time he began preaching. Was judgment about to fall because of the line of Seth adopting the ways of Cain? Did his message and trip to heaven cause a revival that held that judgment off for another thousand years? The context would seem to indicate that to me. What a difference one life can make!

To walk with God you have to be going where God is going. You have to be going His direction. That means we have to let Him direct. (Psalm 23:2-3) When He turns we turn. Most of us want God to walk with us. We want Him to walk where we are going. It doesn't work that way. If you want to walk with Him then He must lead. (Psalm 143:8)

Not only that, but to walk with someone you must walk at their pace. (Galatians 5:25) We can be going in the same direction on the same path but run ahead or lag behind. You can do the right things but at the wrong time. That will always lack the blessing

Commented [notes12]: 11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.
Jude 1:11 (NIV)

Commented [notes13]: 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.
1 Peter 4:16 (NIV)

Commented [notes14]: 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Heb 11:6 (NIV)

Commented [notes15]: 10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.
Gal 1:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes16]: 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.
1 Tim 4:12 (NIV)

Commented [notes17]: 26 Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.
Gen 4:26 (NIV)

Commented [notes18]: 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Psalms 23:2-3 (NIV)

Commented [notes19]: 8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.
Psalms 143:8 (NIV)

Commented [notes20]: 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
Gal 5:25 (NIV)

and power of God. To walk with Him we must go at His pace. Sometimes we are upset because He won't speed up. Sometimes we complain because He won't slow down. Enoch walked **with** God. How are you walking today?

Faith pleases God, and God was so pleased with Enoch that He couldn't wait to bring Him home. God wanted Enoch's faith to become sight and for Him to be undistracted in His presence. (Psalm 27:4) It reminds me of the stanza in a hymn.

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back like a scroll
The trumpet will sound and the Lord shall descend
It is well, it is well with my soul!

Think of it. God enjoyed Enoch's fellowship because it was a fellowship of faith. God enjoyed Enoch so much that He couldn't wait for Him to live out a long life span. People were asking, "Hey, where did that preacher go? Have you seen Enoch?" His wife probably thought he was off praying somewhere or preaching in some distant city, but he never came home. Finally, someone who must have seen the instant of his translation told everyone how he was there one minute and gone the next. He may have told them something like, "He was smiling at the heavens and then, poof, he was gone." Kind of like that thing Scotty did on Star Trek.

There was only one other man who made an exception by not dying, Elijah. Some think that these two will be the end-time prophets of Revelation 11 because God has appointed all men to die once. (Hebrews 9:27) Those of us who are around when the Lord returns will find out what it was like for Enoch. The trumpet will sound and – blink- we'll have our heavenly body and be standing in His presence. (1Thessalonians 4:16-17) It's thrilling to speculate about those things, but what should really strike us is what made the life of Enoch an exception.

He walked with God. Who are you walking with? Most people walk with the selfish trinity, me, myself and I. The term "to walk" is also translated "manner of life". Enoch's manner of life was of being with God. Sometimes we spend our days in our own strength, thinking of everything but God. All we do is by our own power for our own desires. We come to church once a week and dedicate a little time to God, but God doesn't want your Sunday morning. He wants to walk with you. He wants you to exercise the likeness of God that makes it possible for you to have an intimate relationship with Him. He wants your manner of life to be with Him. He is looking for men and women who will worship Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:23) Is there someone here who will be so enamored with God that they will not let the culture dictate how they live? You don't have to be a preacher like Enoch. God is looking for people who will walk with him in every avenue of this world and its business. He wants soldiers like Stephen that will walk with Him. He wants realtors like Cathy that will walk with Him. He wants retirees like Ida that will walk with Him.

Every time someone saw Enoch, they thought about God. God wants people that will cause others to think about a relationship with God. Does your life do that? Are you walking with Him leading the way like a dance partner through this life? Are you going at His pace? Is your faith pleasing God? The day will come when the earth will no longer remember us. (Ecclesiastes 2:16) Like Enoch, we will be no more. When

Commented [notes21]: 4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. Psalms 27:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes22]: 27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, Heb 9:27 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thess 4:16-17 (NIV)

Commented [notes24]: 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. John 4:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes25]: 16 For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die! Eccl 2:16 (NIV)

the genealogies are written, will our life be worthy of the comment, "He walked with God"? Are you reflecting the likeness? If not, Enoch's life invites you to walk with God. It invites us to Jesus' great command to love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Luke 10:27) Who will accept the invitation?

Commented [notes26]: 27 He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "
Luke 10:27 (NIV)