



# To Walk with the Lord . . .

**A sermon series to promote the positive aspects of daily devotions.**

**Pastor Matthew Ude - 2019 Great Lakes Delegates Conference**

Notes:

Although you could do all four one after another, you could also space them out through the year.

The goal here is to focus on the blessings of daily devotions. My hope is that there are some at least among us that paint such a beautiful picture of the blessings that come to us in daily devotion that the members will spring from their pews in their eagerness to get home and start experiencing this for themselves.

You will find in each group a reading you might call a classic text. These are texts like Ephesians 6:4 which we would instantly associated with the idea of teaching the word to our children. Many of these are great texts and are often and joyful preached. In no way should anything I say be taken as a reason to avoid preaching on them for school openings and the like. However I decided to use them as readings and not as sermon texts in this series for a number of reasons:

1. Their use as a reminder to Christian education and daily devotions is so obviously that all you really need to do is read them and the point is made. Preaching on them might have a tendency to feel like hammering the point.
2. They tend to be law orientated passages and I wanted to focus on the blessings.
3. You hardly need a paper from me suggesting such passages for this particular theme. What a waste a time that would be.

\* after a hymn indicates it is from the Worship Supplement

# To walk with the Lord ... Is to walk in grace

**Genesis 3:6-15** – The Lord visits Adam and Even after they have sinned

He walks openly (v6-7) - He walks quietly (v8-13) - He walks afflicted (v14-15)

## Notes:

Very often people fail to visit the dentist and or doctor when they have failed to do those things they know they should. They do not want to go to the dentist where they know they will hear him say, “you need to floss more.” The same is true with God. Either because of guilt or because we don’t want to hear the Lord tell us what to do we begin to avoid him, both in church and in daily devotions. This sermon text was chosen because it highlights God’s reaction to sin is one of quiet grace. One could also then take the opportunity to highlight the daily need for this forgiveness

## Readings:

Luke 19:1-10 – Jesus Eats with Zacchaeus

2 Timothy 3:15-4:5 – From childhood you have known

## Collect:

Dearest Jesus who descended in grace to walk beside us, humble our hearts that learning to walk with you we may experience your love now in this life and forever after in eternity; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

## Hymns:

To Thy Temple I Repair

Let Children hear the Mighty Deeds

God Loves Me Dearly\*

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

# To walk with the Lord ... Is to walk in peace

## Psalm 23 – The Shepherd Psalm

Contentment in Christ (v1) - Rest in Christ (v2) - Safe in Christ (v4/5)

In this sermon we want to focus on the peace that comes through daily spending time with the Lord. We want to especially focus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of Psalm 23. Emphasize that this peace comes only through following our Good Shepherd and that this peace is not the peace of this world but a spiritual peace. We can have peace inside even when outside there is total chaos. You could also emphasize how to lay your burdens on Christ and not worry about anything knowing that he is our Good Shepherd who will take care of everything

### Readings:

Luke 10:38-42 – the story of Mary and Martha

Ephesians 6:1-9 – “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”

### Collect:

Dearest Jesus who is always our guiding Shepherd, let the power of your word grow in our hearts, so that even in the midst of great storms our hearts may rest in your peace; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

### Hymns:

Open Now the Gates of Beauty

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

Shepherd of Tender Youth

I am Jesus Little Lamb

Jesus Shepherd of the Sheep

# To walk with the Lord ... Is to walk in abundance

**2 Kings 18:1-8** – Hezekiah becomes king, turns to the Lord and the Lord prospers him

abundant growth (v1-2) - abundant strength (v3-6) - abundant prosperity (v7-8)

Another reason that often stops people from spending time in His word is that they simply have too much going on, and no time. Therefore it is important to remind our members that putting the Lord first is the only way to prosper. His word gives wisdom and knowledge. And you can also emphasize that stopping to hear his word is going to help us prioritize correctly and therefore actually accomplish useful things instead of running to and fro like a chicken without a head getting little of actual use done. Hezekiah of course does put the Lord first and the Lord greatly blesses his reign.

## Readings:

Matthew 6:24-34 – Seek first the kingdom of God

1 Timothy 4:6-11 – bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable to all things

## Collect:

Heavenly Father who has poured upon us every good blessing, daily turns our hearts and minds away from the desires of this world to follow your path so that by Your grace we may be filled with the treasures of heaven; through Jesus . . .

## Hymns:

Lord Open Thou My Heart to Hear

Lord Take My Hand And Lead Me \*

Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose Thee\*

Abide O Dearest Jesus

# To walk with the Lord ... Is to walk in Maturity

**Acts 16:9-15** – Paul sees a vision and goes to Macedonia

know his voice (v9-10) - follow his voice (v11-13) - speak his voice (v14-15)

Daily walking with the Lord provides us with a maturity of faith that is impossible to get in any other way. Those who daily walk with their Lord know the voice of their shepherd in a way that no one else does. Notice the difference between Paul in this account and that of Paul when we first meet him on the road to Damascus. There he didn't know that voice but here he knows the voice of His shepherd instantly. You could also preach on the OT selection here. It has very similar thoughts. I prefer the NT reading because in the case of Samuel you have one who doesn't recognize the voice, and another who recognizes it but doesn't heed it. In Acts you have one who both knows and heeds that voice

## **Readings:**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 – Samuel hears God calling

Ephesians 4:11-16 – that we should no longer be children

## **Collect:**

Dearest Jesus, who calls us each by name, teach our hearts that we may grow daily in the word, so that being no longer children we may always recognize Your voice and gladly come when you call; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

## **Hymns:**

Blessed Jesus At Thy Word

I Hear The Savior Calling\*

Thy Strong Word\*

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

# Ideas

Display devotion books for sale or borrow

Keep devotion books with you to hand out at visits

Don't be afraid to ask and/or remind

Put devotional readings in bulletins

Encourage by example

Every class, counseling, marriage, adult instruction, etc

Bring it up in Bible Class, ask people what they are using and how do they like it

Put it on the church calendar

# Resources

**[devotions.clclutheran.org](http://devotions.clclutheran.org)** - All the material mentioned in this presentation and devotional reviews

**[www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)** - Children Sermon Ideas

**[burdenblessing.org](http://burdenblessing.org)** - Nathaniel Mayhew and Mark Tiefel review devotional books