

#### Walk vs. Live

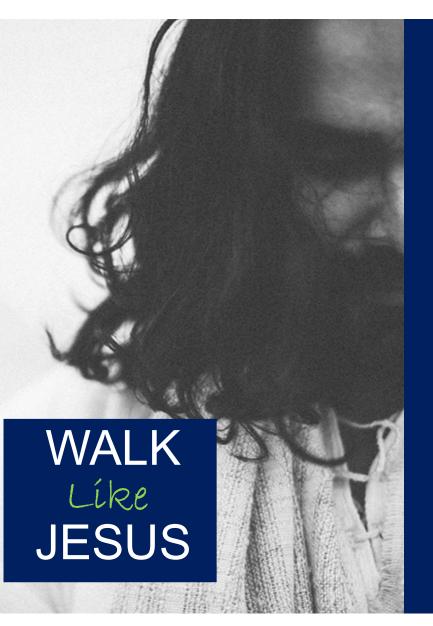
- I'm using the idea "walk" to describe our relationship with Jesus. Some translations use the word "live".
  - 1) It paints a picture
  - 2) It shows action
  - 3) One step at a time
  - 4) Jesus is taking us some place

Our anchor passage: 1 John 2:3-6\*



#### 1 John 2:3-6

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.



#### 1 John 2:5-6

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

#### **Catch this Vision for Your Life**

## **Becoming More Like Jesus**

- Believe in Jesus, yes!
- Next step: Believe what Jesus believes!

How would Jesus live my life if He were me?



28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.

30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

31 "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

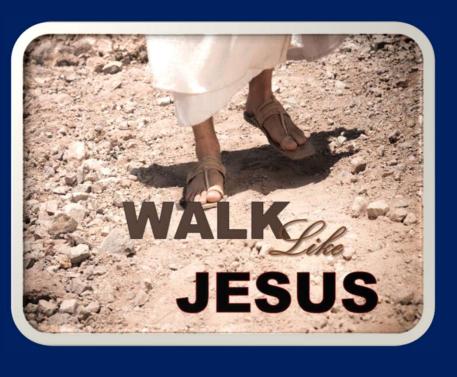
32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.

33 "And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

(NKJV)

#### **Mission & Motto**



Love GOD

Love People



# "What is the first commandment of all?"

• First = greatest, most important

#### **Commandment**

- We think "rules to obey".
- Hebrew idea =

"the best path you can choose"

- Best Directions or Wisest instructions
- Commandments often come in form of "do's" & "don'ts", or stories
- You are <u>free to choose</u> the best path or a lesser path which will likely lead to curse & chaos.



#### Jesus answers by quoting (Deut 6:4-9)

(vs 29-30)

Paraphrase: The greatest thing you can do with your life, the best path you can choose is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

#### The Shema

- Jewish prayer, prayed morning & evening for generations
- Titled after the first Hebrew word in Deut 6:4

### Shema = <u>hear</u> or <u>listen</u> and <u>do</u>

- You know someone listened if they do it.
  - Kinda like Momma feels about taking out garbage.
- Opposite: to be "deaf" spiritually or to be "rebellious"

#### **Ezekiel 33:30-32**

30 "As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, 'Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.'

#### **Ezekiel 33:30-32**

31 "So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.

#### **Ezekiel 33:30-32**

32 "Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.



#### One of Jesus' Favorite Sayings

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- 7x in Revelation chapters 2-3
- Is he talking about your physical ears?

#### **James 1:22-25**

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural

face in a mirror;

#### **James 1:22-25**

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is **not a forgetful hearer** but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he **does**.

#### Hear, O Israel...

- Israel = God's Family
  - There is a national Israel
  - There is a spiritual Israel (Gal 6:15-16, Romans 9:6-8)
    - Those in Christ both Jew and Gentile
    - We are grafted into "spiritual Israel"



#### The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

#### One = one and only, alone

- Idea: The LORD is our God, the LORD is the only one! The LORD alone!
- In a world that is infested with other gods & ideas,
   The LORD alone is our God!
- This is a faith declaration, Loyalty Oath to God
  - And a reminder to yourself Self Talk



#### I'm All in!!!

- I'm committed to serve You only.
- I'm committed to be loyal to You only.
- I'm committed to hearing and doing what You say.
- I have no other God but you!

Listen to what Jesus said about being "all in"....

#### Jesus, Luke 14:25-33

25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

#### Jesus, Luke 14:25-33

28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it -- 29 "lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 "saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

#### Jesus, Luke 14:25-33

31 "Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 "Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your **heart**. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your **house**, when you **walk** by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your **hand**, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## The Greatest thing you can do...

# Love GOD

# LOVE

- To do what is best for another
  - Love is an <u>action</u> word (more than feelings)
- If you love someone, you want the **best for them** & you do what is in your power to **make it happen**.
  - Entails sacrifice, giving, serving, caring, tenderness, kindness, patience, seeking to understand them, sharing, etc

# Love GOD

- = to do what's best for God, seek to please Him, do what you can to see that His Name is honored
- Jesus came to show us how!
- Jesus is the only One who knows how to do this right!
- Let Jesus be your Teacher!

**Learn to Walk Like Jesus!** 



#### **The Best Path You Can Choose**

Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD alone. 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Jesus: There is no other commandment greater than these.