

“Walking with God during the Day”  
(Ephesians 6:1-9)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we saw the importance of a good start on the day.
  - a. We should look in the mirror of God’s Law to see our own heart: what condition it’s in.
  - b. But we should also look in the mirror of the Gospel to see the face of Christ, to encourage us that the Lord has provided a way for us to overcome our sins and that we may enter boldly into His presence to receive His help to do so.
2. Then with what we learn from both mirrors, we should enter into prayer.
  - a. We should then be able humbly to come to Him in prayer to ask for His mercy and for the things we need.
  - b. Don’t forget as well that when you come, you are to adore the One whom you love and who loves you with an infinite love, to humbly ask His pardon for your sins, and to thank Him for the mercies He’s given you, before you ask Him for the things you need.

B. Preview.

1. This evening, we’ll see that there is one more thing we are to do to begin the day with God, depending on our particular situation in life, as well as some general principles that we should apply to everything we do.
2. Let’s consider two things:
  - a. First, for you who are heads of your household, after you get yourself ready, then you need to prepare those who are dependent on you.
  - b. And second, once we’re ready to face the day, then we should set our hearts to do the work the Lord has called each of us to do with a good attitude and with diligence.

II. Sermon.

- A. If you are the head of a household, after you get yourself ready, then you need to get those ready who are dependent on you.
1. After you’ve begun with prayer, and have restored your peace with God through Jesus, and have asked for His presence and help, then you need to apply yourself to the business of the day, depending on what that day is:
    - a. If it is the Lord’s Day, then you need to give yourself to worship.
    - b. If it is one of the other six days, then you need to apply yourself to the work the Lord has called you to do, depending on whether you’re an employer/boss, or a worker, or a peer, in the three spheres of authority God has created: in your family, church or state, remembering that all that you do you will be doing in God’s presence.
    - c. Everything you do then during the day you should seek to do in faith, according to His Word, making sure you have asked for His help in advance: You’d be surprised

how much more you can get done and how much better your work will turn out if you commit it to the Lord before you begin.

2. But there is one more thing you should do if you happen to be the head of a household before you begin, and that is to gather your family together in the morning to worship the Lord.
    - a. You should spend some time praising Him by singing a hymn or psalm if you're able.
    - b. You should read, explain and apply Scripture to your wife and children, as well as encouraging them to follow the Lord.
    - c. And you should pray and ask the Lord to give each of you the strength you need to live a godly life and to be productive in what you will do.
    - d. If there are some mornings when you don't have much time to spend in worship, then at least try to pray together.
    - e. Remember not to neglect this duty.
      - (i) This is what the Lord calls you to do as the head of your household.
      - (ii) And by calling you to this, He gives you thousands of opportunities to influence and build your family up in the Lord.
      - (iii) There are sadly many who have lost these opportunities who wished they had them back.
- B. Once we're spiritually prepared to face the day, then we should set our hearts to do the work the Lord has called each of us to do with a good attitude and with diligence, as to the Lord.
1. Each of us has some work to do:
    - a. When we were children, we may have thought that we were put on this earth to play; we had a hard time learning that this wasn't what life was all about.
      - (i) The Lord didn't create anyone to play or to do nothing.
      - (ii) Paul writes, "For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies" (2 Thes. 3:10-11).
    - b. At whatever stage we're at, we need to apply ourselves to our work:
      - (i) "Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with *all* your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going" (Ecc. 9:10).
      - (ii) "Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free" (Eph. 6:5-8).
      - (iii) If we're children, we need to apply ourselves to learn submission to our parents.
      - (iv) If we're in school, we are to apply ourselves to our schooling.
      - (v) If we're in our working years, we are to apply ourselves to our callings.

- (vi) And if we're in our retiring years, we need to try to be a source of help and wisdom to those who are still in the other stages of life.
  - d. Whatever we do, we need to see it as part of our Christian calling and seek to do it with all our might to the Lord.
2. To walk with the Lord while we do these things, we should make sure:
- a. That the work we're doing isn't sinful (*e.g.*, a bouncer), but good – something that provides a useful service to mankind.
  - b. That we work diligently: “Be obedient to . . . your masters . . . in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men” (Eph. 6:5-7).
  - c. We need to make sure that we deal honestly and fairly with everyone.
  - d. We need to make sure that we're loving our neighbor as ourselves: your employer, or your employees, everyone you serve. Don't just think about yourself, but think about others.
    - (i) Paul writes, “Do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4).
    - (ii) Jesus said, “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you” (Luke 6:31), and “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12).
  - e. But we also need to take advantages of the opportunities the Lord gives us to prosper: “Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer *and* gathers her provision in the harvest” (Prov. 6:6-8).
  - f. And we need to make sure that we avoid those particular temptations that each calling and stage of life presents to us.
3. In our work day we should also remember those duties which are ours if we are in authority or under authority in family, church or state.
- a. If you are in authority as a husband, a father or mother in a family, an elder of a church, an employer or a government official:
    - (i) You must walk worthy of that calling – make sure you live according to God's Word, be just, fair, gracious, merciful and loving.
    - (ii) Faithfully help those who have been entrusted to your care to do what the Lord has called them to do faithfully. The Lord placed you over them and gave you this authority to help them.
    - (iii) How can you do this?
      - (a) First, provide them with a good example, as Peter encouraged the elders to do: “Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, *but proving to be examples to the flock*” (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

- (1) This applies to you whether you are a husband, parent, elder, employer or magistrate.
  - (2) When you don't live an upright life, it affects those who are under you.
  - (3) Just think what a difference it would make in our society if we were governed by godly men? Look what ungodly men have done to our nation.
  - (4) Consider how godliness will affect your marriage and your children.
- (b) Second, you should pray with them and for them. Job was a good example of this as he continually prayed and made offerings for his children in case they had committed serious sins against God, "When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, 'Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' Thus Job did continually" (Job 1:5).
- (c) Third, you should make sure that you only ask them to do things that are right and within the bounds of God's authority – things that are possible to do and that they have the ability to do – don't make their duty too difficult.
- (d) Fourth, as much as you can, help them to do what's right – constantly encourage them in these things.
- (e) Fifth, in the same vein, try to prevent them from doing evil. Parents, don't let your children do things you know are wrong and harmful to them. They may reach the point where they won't listen to you, but don't you be guilty of not warning them and using your authority to prevent them from doing what's wrong as long as you can.
- (f) Sixth, protect and defend them from those who would injure them.
- (g) Seventh, encourage them when they do well as quickly as you point out their faults. Praise and reward them for doing well.
- (h) Eighth, when they sin, reprove them, but always in love and not in anger:
- (1) "Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. . . . Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart" (Col. 3:19, 21).
  - (2) "And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him" (Eph. 6:9).
  - (3) Make sure you help them to understand what they have done that's wrong and why it's wrong. Don't just scold them.
- (i) Ninth, if what you say is enough to get them to repent, then don't discipline any further.
- (1) But if they don't listen, then use the rod (children), but don't discipline excessively.
  - (2) "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. . . . Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul" (Prov. 29:15-17).

- (j) Tenth, if you've done all you can and they don't change, then you will need to seek a higher authority (Deu. 21:18-21).
  - (k) You must treat those under you fairly and not be oppressive.
  - (l) Remember that you too have a Father in heaven, that you are His servant, governing under Him and under His authority, and that one day you will give an account to Him of how well you've done. "Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven" (Col. 4:1).
- b. Where you are under authority: as wives, children, members of the congregation, employees, citizens of a city, state and country.
- (i) You need to honor those the Lord has placed over you. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12).
  - (ii) You are to obey them faithfully and for the Lord's sake when they use their authority within Scriptural bounds.
    - (a) "But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything" (Eph. 5:24).
    - (b) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. . . . Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ" (Eph. 6:1, 5).
    - (c) "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right" (1 Pet. 2:13-14).
  - (iii) And you are to submit to their reproof and correction patiently, without complaining or talking back or resisting. "*Urge* bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, *not argumentative*" (Titus 2:9).
  - (iv) When we resist God-ordained authority, we are resisting God, "Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves" (Rom. 13:2).
  - (v) But when we conscientiously (Rom. 13:5) submit to that authority, we will be rewarded by God.
    - (a) "With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free" (Eph. 6:7-8).
    - (b) "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality" (Col. 3:23-25).
    - (c) We need to remember that whatever we do during the day, we must do it in God's presence, and if we are to do it in a way that will honor Him, so that we may walk with Him, we must do it according to His Word.
    - (d) May the Lord encourage us to live each moment in His presence. Amen.