

Balancing Act - Week Three

Today's Big Idea: Find Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-16

Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk – not as unwise people but as wise – making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

Pay careful attention, take notice to how you walk:

- Your “walk” in the bible is always a description of how you spend your life.
- It's a reference to the choices that you make.
- Remember, “Noah walked with God” and Jesus said there are two paths you can take in life, a path that leads to life and a path that leads to death.

Genesis 5:21-32...

And Enoch lived 65 years, and fathered Methuselah...

22 then Enoch walked with God 300 years after that and had other children;

23 so all his days were 365 years...

24 and he walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

25 And Methuselah lived 187 years, and fathered Lamech...

26 then he lived 782 years after that and had other children;

27 so all his days were 969 years, and he died.

28 And Lamech lived 182 years, and fathered Noah...

29 saying, “This one shall give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the LORD has cursed.”

30 Then Lamech lived 595 years after that and had other children;

31 so all his days were 777 years, and he died.

32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

There are four prominent men in vv. 21-32. Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah.

In vv. 22-23 Enoch is said to have “walked with God,” and his life is unique since he never actually died.

Walking with God is an expression in the Bible used to denote people who had fellowship with God through obedience to Him.

They talk about this type of relationship a lot in the NT.

Hebrews 11:5 explains what happened:

“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.”

So why did Enoch not die? Simply because he pleased God.

He is one of only two men in the Bible—the other being Elijah—who never actually died but was taken by God before death.

Jude 14-15 records Enoch’s preaching:

“See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Enoch’s preaching against sin, coupled by his close walk with God, pleased God so much that God spared him death.

The second man highlighted is Methuselah. He is the oldest person whose age is recorded in the Bible.

He died at the age of 969 years of age, and it appears that he was a righteous man—so righteous that God would not put him to death during the Flood but just prior to it.

He was 369 years old when Noah was born and Noah had his three sons at age 500.

Bible also says that the floodwaters came upon the earth Noah was just over 600 years old.

That extra 100 years means that he was 969 at the time of the flood, meaning that God took him home just before the worldwide flood of judgment.

The third man is Lamech. Noah's dad.

Lamech came from the bloodline of Cain. Cain's line was evil.

But the ungodly line produced a Lamech that hoped in God. He named his son Noah, which sounds like the Hebrew for "rest."

Lamech was looking for the "rest" in relief of the Curse, and he believed that his son Noah would provide it.

Noah indeed provided a new start for the human race through his walk with God.

The Curse was still in place, but Noah showed how man can still please God through walking in obedience to Him in spite of the heartache around him.

Walking with God must be the quest of every believer who calls on the name of the Lord for salvation.

Walking with God is a daily occurrence.

So many people assume they walk with God when they go to church, but if going to church is a substitute for a daily walk with God, then you are in trouble.

But if going to a Bible-teaching, Christ-honoring church is a supplement to one's walk with Christ, then church will be all that it should be for you.

Don't try to make my sermon a substitute for your responsibility to walk with God.

Let my messages complement your walk.

Allow God to infiltrate all of your thoughts and actions.

That means that He is suggested and considered in all that we think and do.

Not as unwise people, but as wise:

- See, wise people take into account how they live.
- They consider the choices that they make because remember, the choices that you make don't just affect who you do, but they affect WHO you become!
- We like to believe that our choices about how we spend our time affect just the here and the now, but they don't. It's so much more than that. They affect the kind of people we become.
- Nobody sets out to be an absentee dad, but it happens.
- Nobody says, "Hey, I'll be a workaholic and really hurt the people closest to me," but it happens.
- How? The choices we make about our time affect, not just what we do, but who we become.

Family is my first ministry....not the church.

What ADDS energy to my life?

1. Where does time speed up? You may not have a lot of enthusiasm for your job, but you love your serve day project or small group.
2. Where does time slow down?
3. How do you feel when you're done? Sitting on the couch vs. Exercise

Who or what adds energy to your life? Maybe spend more time with that.

You have to limit the time you spend with or doing...

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Spend the time with HIM.....He is the one that adds energy.