

Walking Humbly With God

“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” (Micah 6:8).

We are told that the proper pronunciation of the town of Humble, Texas is “umble” (the “H” being silent). Supposedly, the town’s founder, an original settler from England named Pleasant Smith “Plez” Humble, pronounced his last name like that. The basis of Humble’s economy since its beginning has been petroleum; the Humble Oil and Refining Company eventually merged with the Exxon Corporation.

Having preached many times in the vicinity of Humble, I remember when it was a distinct little town; now it is almost swallowed up by the greater Houston area. Recently I read of a housing development advertised as “Wood Walk, Humble, Texas.” I don’t think the developers had this in mind, but if the ad was read another way, it could be read “Wood Walk Humble,” or “Would Walk Humble.”

Because of our failures and weaknesses, there are times when we feel like we will be swallowed up by our enemy, the devil. Yet there is a spiritual development within us, a development of faith that confesses that we “Would Walk Humble.” This is the desire the Holy Spirit promotes in our walk with God. Several truths are attached to this emphasis in this special Old Testament text.

The concern before us is a lowly one! The word “humbly” means “to be lowly, or submissive.” In the one other usage of this particular Hebrew term, it is set forth as the opposite of pride, or arrogance (see Prov. 11:2). We can only conclude, then, that to humbly walk with God is to be brought to a place where one despises the respect of man, primarily self-appreciation, and in lowly appreciation of God’s exalted Person, lives submissively in respect of Him.

The context before us is a loaded one! According to the earlier statements in the text, walking humbly with God is not only spoken of as “good” in His eyes, but “required” or demanded by Him. Walking humbly with God is also associated with two other issues: “to do justly,” or just do right, and “to love mercy,” or be merciful to others as God has been merciful to us. These truths are so potent that Jesus Himself referred to them (see Matt. 23:23).

The concept before us is a lovely one! We are confronted here with more than just the idea of walking, and more is involved than walking humbly; the message to us is to “walk humbly with thy God.” It is difficult to imagine that sinners like us have the privilege of walking with God. It is a lovely representation, though—going through life, moving through all our days in step with our great God. May we know more about this humble exercise.