

Walking as He Walked

“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked” (1 John 2:6).

It has been my privilege to lead several tours to “The Holy Land” over the years. I was often amazed by the motive of tourists. Of course, there were always devoted Christians who wanted to learn more about the Lord Jesus and the Scriptures. But there were those who just wanted to be baptized in the River Jordan or float in the Dead Sea. Some went for pleasure or for a vacation, and others went to purchase jewelry or a few what-nots to show their relatives.

One of the lines often heard in a sales pitch for a tour of Israel is, “Walk Where Jesus Walked!” And the primary sites that are related to His life and ministry are usually visited. Sightseers get to walk down the cobblestone streets of the ancient city of Jerusalem and it is special to be able to ride a boat across the Sea of Galilee. To me, a mere historical venture without seeing these spots of interest would be somewhat of a let-down.

Just walking where Jesus walked, however, is not the purpose of God in our lives. According to the text, the exhortation is to “walk . . . as He walked.” Unfortunately, some understand this to mean that we are to mimic Jesus or adopt a “What Would Jesus Do?” philosophy. We can be sure that there is more involved in “Walking as He Walked” than trying to act as He would act or do as He would do.

Walking as Jesus walked issues out of a life of abiding! Notice the verse again: we are told, “He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” Having just mentioned that we are “in Him” (2:5), our walk is viewed as a result of abiding in Christ. As branches in Christ, the Vine, our walk is controlled by His life flowing through us. As we are vitally joined to Him, His features begin to be featured in our lives.

Walking as Jesus walked continues with a life of appropriating! When the Lord Jesus said, “Without Me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5), He shut us up to His life. To “appropriate” means to “to take for one’s own use.” As branches in the vine, we are blessed to take His life for our very own use. As we draw from His fullness, His life fills us and manifests itself in us. His walk becomes our walk.

Walking as Jesus walked shines through a life of affirming! To deny the responsibilities of this walk would be foolish. In the context, we are reminded that we are to “keep His commandments” and His “word” (see 2:3, 5). But our obedience is not the result of struggling and striving to maintain our walk. Our obedience affirms that His life is working its way through us and manifesting itself in our daily experience. God grant it to be so.