

November 18, 2007

## Walk With Jesus

We began our service today with the Baptism of Evan Swenson. We look at Baptism as the beginning of a new life. As Jesus tells Nicodemus, who I like to call Nick at night because he came to visit Jesus and night. As Jesus tells Nick we need to be born anew. Our evangelical and Baptist brothers and sisters in Christ call it born again.

Being Lutheran I kind of like the way Martin Luther put it. "We are drown in the waters of Baptism and raised up to new life in Christ. What is this new life suppose to look like? As we talked about it a few weeks ago it's a life in relationship with Jesus Christ. The parents are to teach this child, Evan and the rest of us need to learn how to live in this relationship. So we learn the about baptism, Holy Communion, the creed, the Lord's prayer, 10 commandments, we read and study the bible, we get together with other Christians we learn day by day, with successes and failures, how to live in relationship with Jesus. As our stewardship program phrased it. As we Walk with Jesus. Maybe we should get some braclets with WWJ on them instead of WWJD, what would Jesus do we can have WWJ. Walking with Jesus or Walk with Jesus.

We all have a number of relationships. Mothers and Fathers, brothers, and sisters, Aunts, Uncles, cousins, Friends and neighbors. And on and one. People we go to school with work with and so on. Each one of these relationships are different. We do certain things with certain people, we talk about certain things with certain people. With our parents we talk about things like sex. Ok maybe not so much. Maybe we should but that's another issue. The point is most of the time we compartmentalize our relationships for one reason or another. If we are fortunate we find someone we can share everything with, or nearly everything with, maybe a spouse, a friend or maybe it is mother, father, son daughter.

Jesus wants to be the best friend. Jesus wants to be the one you invite everywhere, the one you never leave behind, the one you share everything with.

There is this one tv comercial where the mother and father are in the back of the car kissing, yuck. They are kissing rather passionately, really yuck. I don't know about you but I'm glad my parents love each other. If I thought about it which I really don't want to do, I'm sure they kiss and stuff but I don't want to think about it. I don't want to talk with them about it. I am uncomfortable talking with them about it. That is how we often feel about Jesus.

There are things we would rather not talk with Jesus about. Money is one of them. Money is something very personal to us. But Jesus wants to be very personal with us.

This new life that Evan just started has to do with his relationship with Jesus, his Walk with Jesus. Jesus wants that relationship to be all inclusive. Jesus wants us to feel comfortable talking with him about everything and anything. If there are things we don't feel comfortable talking with him about, things we avoid talking with him about it is probably an indication that something is wrong or we are feeling guilty about it.

It is not necessarily the case that we should be feeling bad or guilty about these things. Remember Satan, the one who opposes God, often sends us messages that are misleading. Sometimes he or she (let's be

inclusive) wants us to feel guilty for no good reason. Satan wants us to feel unworthy of God's love. That is one of the reasons why we should check all things over with Jesus.

In our gospel reading for today Jesus talks about being ready for disasters, being ready for even the end of all time. The way to be ready is to keep the faith. Not a head thing, not only. Keep the faith is a holistic thing. It is a living in a relationship thing. It is a whole life thing.

Speaking of disasters we have had some around the country and around the world, as a result of fires and floods and storms, people have lost their lives, lost their homes. The question comes up: "If you had to get out of your house in a hurry and you could take very little with you, what would you bring with you." In addition to your family and any other people, what would you bring with you?

We have this wall going down to the basement in our house that we invite people to sign. My friend Pastor Kevin Jones wrote some great words of wisdom. "In case of emergence you should already know what to do." I'm not sure if he wrote as a joke maybe but it is also certainly words of wisdom. In an emergency you should already know what to do. An emergency is not the time to start thinking about it.

When your house is burning or going underwater or in any emergency, you know what you should bring with you? Bring your faith. Bring your faith with you always. Don't leave your relationship with Jesus behind. Whatever you do where ever you go, don't leave your relationship with Jesus behind. Walk with Jesus.

Amen?