

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

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Have you ever wanted to travel to the places where Jesus walked while He was on earth? To ride across Lake Galilee trying to picture the disciples attempting to save themselves while Jesus was right with them but asleep in the boat? Or to experience their fear as they saw someone walking toward them on the water, climbing *The Mount of Olives*, the place of the ascension, or visit *Gethsemane* where Jesus was betrayed?



There are many tour opportunities for anyone wanting this experience, however, one need not have to go to these places to really be walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

Many feel it would be a great privilege to visit the scenes of Christ's life on earth, to walk where He tread, to look upon the lake beside which He loved to preach, and the hills and valleys on which His eyes so often rested. But we need not to go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sickbed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great city, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation. In doing as Jesus did on earth, we shall walk in His steps. The Desire of Ages, p. 640

The last sentence of this quotation gives the key to what it really means to be walking in the footsteps of Jesus—in doing what He did on earth; we shall walk in His steps.

Each of us serving in *Seventh-day Adventist* education must follow the Master teacher, walking in His steps. To be effective in this vital ministry, I want to give just a few examples of what this really means. We must study the life of Christ, and apply what He did on earth, so that our daily walk is following in His footprints.

First, Jesus called His disciples and then all His work focused on inviting others to follow Him. Key to Adventist education is introducing each student to Jesus and inviting each one personally to follow Him. Our mandate as workers for Him, demands more than the imparting of information; important as that is. We must take a personal interest in the spiritual life of each student and personally invite each one to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Second, there will be times when students make mistakes—perhaps on some occasions—very serious mistakes. Along with such occasions may come shame, humiliation and remorse. We must remember how Jesus responded to those who had fallen into sin. True, there must be consequences for student misbehaviour; but all discipline must be redemptive. This is a time that provides an excellent opportunity to treat students as Jesus would, and to take advantage of pointing them to a loving Saviour who is willing to forgive.

Third, Jesus was very sensitive to each person and that person's life situation. The Jews discriminated and avoided certain classes of people. We must treat each student with respect and dignity. There may be some who are hard to love, but God will help us with this if we ask Him. In this day there are occasions of bullying and mistreatment of students by their classmates. We must always have our eyes and ears trained on each aspect of school life. In all our interactions with students there must be an atmosphere of inclusiveness. None should ever feel excluded.

Fourth, Jesus gave His all for us. We are required to give our all to Him in return. The challenges of Adventist education are enormous and extremely demanding, but Jesus has promised to be with us. He gives wisdom to those who ask, and has sent us the Holy Spirit to direct our paths.

My prayer is that each of us will study the life of the *Master Teacher* and strive to do what He did on earth, so we will daily walk in His footsteps.

Resources:

- White, Ellen G. *The Desire of Ages*. Pacific Press Publishing Association. Mountain View, California