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A Dedicated Life

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

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Genesis 5:21-24

21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begot Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begot Methuselah three hundred years, and begot sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

“...Enoch walked with God...” Now that doesn’t say a whole lot, does it? When you just say those words, it does not sound like it says a whole lot, but it really does say a whole lot when you read about Enoch and what it means to walk with God. He was human like the rest of us are. He lived in a very wicked time. When you read about the time that Enoch lived, it was a very wicked time. A lot like it is today. Murder, violence, stealing, lying, deception, and all kinds of things were going on then; Enoch lived in that generation.

As you look at his life, there are things in our life that God can use to get our attention. Sometimes we don’t know what they are until they have already come and gone. Sometimes God doesn’t say that in a year, two, or five this event is going to take place and that is going to change your life. God does not always do that.

However, there was something that happened in Enoch’s life that totally and completely changed him.

21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begot Methuselah:

There is no doubt in my mind as I read about Enoch, these sixty-five years that he lived; he lived just like everybody else lived. Everybody else was living a sinful life and he was living a sinful life. The place was wicked and there was wickedness everywhere. Enoch lived just like everybody else did. He was going through life and everything was seemingly going fine. We don’t know much about him, but there was a day that something happened that changed his life forever.

Isn’t it great that there are times like that in our life that whatever God may use to get our attention; isn’t it great that God loves us enough that He will allow something; He will bring something in our space that will get our attention? That is great that God does that. Sometimes it happens when we are children. Sometimes it happens when we are middle aged or when we get older. It is hard to say when it is.

God is a loving God. He loves us enough that He will allow things to come in our life that will get our attention.

The Bible says that it was a son. In Enoch's life, it was a son.

Sometimes it may be tragedy in our lives. Sometimes it may be death. It may be financial problems. It may be marital problems or spiritual problems. It may be all kinds of issues like losing our job or whatever it may be.

In Enoch's life, it was having a son. He was sixty-five years old and he had a son. We are going to find out here that his life was completely and totally changed from then on because of this son.

As I thought today, when we have children, [their birth] should change our life. That should change our life. When our children are born, when a little baby is born into this world and we take on the responsibility of raising a child, then if we are not living right that should motivate us to live right. We have some other responsibilities there.

There is no doubt in my mind here that when this child was born and Enoch realized the responsibility that he was going to have to raise this child and to do all the things and provide for the child; it changed his mind. There is no doubt also that he understood that he was going to need some help. He understood that he was not living as he needed to be living. There is no doubt in my mind also that Adam had taught him some things. There had been some things taught and handed down from Adam and different ones in his family lineage. However, when the child was born there was something happened that got his attention.

I would to God today that if God has never got our attention or if we have never paid attention to God; I would to God today that there would be something that would get our attention that we would start walking with Him. That is what happened here.

His life totally changed. His life totally and completely changed when he started walking with God. Enoch's name means "to be dedicated." We have been talking about Commitment [in Sunday school].

Enoch's name means "to be dedicated," "to be an imitator," "to be a teacher."

So even in his name, he had some great qualities. We can read some things here about him and when we see that he was dedicated, that means that he was "set apart" for a purpose. Do you know what his purpose was? He wanted to start worshiping Almighty God. He had lived sixty-five years here. He may have been a very sinful man. I don't know all about that. I do know that there was something that changed his life and that was this child here being born.

We need our lives to be changed today if we are going to walk with God. There is something that has to take place.

Do you know what it was in his life? There was a conversion that took place. He went from living in the world or doing the things that the world and he started walking with God.

We need people like that today; people who are walking with God and living where God is at. We need an experience that will change our lives that we don't walk like we used to walk. We have too many people today that say they get saved and nothing ever happens. I don't give you a nickel for people like that, as far as, their conversion goes. If there is no change, then there is no Jesus. If there is no change in our life and we are still yet walking in the same old sinful walk or path that we were walking, then we have never met Jesus.

The Bible says that he lived sixty-five years and he begot Methuselah.

22 And Enoch walked with God...

Do you know what the word "walked" means? It brings out the idea of movement. Not only does it bring out the idea of movement, but it means "steady progress."

We have a lot of folks who come to church for all kinds of different reasons. They come for a while then they get cold and they quit and then we may never see them again.

Enoch was not like that. When he started following the Lord, he totally and completely committed his way unto HIM and he started following HIM. He was making progress. He was going forward. He was not going backwards.

That is what we need today in our lives. We need people who are going forward for Jesus Christ. We don't need people who are going backwards. We even need people standing still. We need to be making a progress. We need to be moving forward with Almighty God. He is moving forward. He doesn't stand still as we stand still many times. He doesn't do that.

The Bible tells us something that happened. He started walking with God. The Bible says some things here that we miss sometimes. This son changed his life.

I have seen people have children and it changed their life for the better. I also have seen people have children and it split their marriages apart. When a child is born into our families, it should draw us closer together. We should see what God has done. We should see the life that God has given us. We should see the blessing that God has given us. We should take that very seriously. We should want to walk after God. If we were walking after God, if our nation today was walking after and following God as we say that we are then our children would not be doing all the things that they are doing today. Daddies and Mommies would know where their children are at tonight. They wouldn't have to worry about where they were at and what they were doing.

Friend, listen. We need to know where they are at. If you have teenage kids, you need to know where they are at. You need to know what they are doing and who they are loafing with. You might say "They are growing up." Friend, God gave them to you. You are the parent. Your children don't need to be telling you what to do. They don't need to be telling you what they are not going to do. It is your responsibility to raise your child and to father your child or to mother your child. That is your responsibility; when you brought them into this world that came with some responsibility. You owe your kids to raise them right. You owe your kids to walk and to follow God. If you live right there is a

good chance that your kids are going to live right. That gets real quiet when we say things like that. I know when kids 18 or 20 years old, they are going to do what they want to. However, we need to ask ourselves something. We can't change the past. What happened yesterday is gone. We can't change that.

We need to ask ourselves today "Are we following God today?" Yesterday is gone. We can't change it. If we need to repent then we need to repent. We need to ask ourselves "Are we following God today?" "What am I doing today?" "Am I following God today?"

If you are doing that, do you know what you can do? Your kids may be gone. They all may be out on their own. However, you can teach your grandkids what is right. You can lead them in the right direction. There might be some neighbor kids that you have. They may live close around you that you can lead them in the right direction.

I know sometimes in life that we don't learn the lessons that we need to learn as we should have learned back when we were young parents. I understand all that. However, it is time that we need to grow up and understand that it is our responsibility as parents and grandparents, as leaders of churches, as leaders of communities; it is our responsibility to stand up and live right and do what is right. Ask people to come and follow us as we follow Jesus Christ. There is nothing wrong with living like that.

This change in his life, when this young man was born in this world, it changed his life. The Bible tells us here that he began to walk with God. Do you know what that means? He began to move forward. He began to make progress. He began to move forward with Almighty God. He began to believe God.

Do you know what we need to do today? We need to believe God. We need to believe His Word. What God said in His Word, we need to believe it? If we believe what God says then our lives would be a lot better than what they are now.

Believing God...do you know what God will never do?

God will never lead you into sin. God will never lead you into a sinful act. Whatever it might be, whatever you want to say, God will never lead you to do something that is wrong. The reason being is because Sin will destroy us and kill us. God does not lead us into that direction. If we believed God and followed God then we would not get in a mess that sometimes we get in. Would we?

The Bible says here that he lived sixty-five years and begot Methuselah.

22 And Enoch walked with God...

He walked with God. He believed God. It means that he believed God. The Bible says that he began to diligently...

To believe God means that we will diligently seek Him. We are diligently looking for Him and following after Him. When we read **Hebrews 11:5-6**, He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Those that are diligently seeking Him today, those that are diligently walking with Him today; we know that He

is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Do you know what the word “diligently” means? It means “to be attentive” “to be busy.” If we are walking with God today then that means that we are busy following Him. As He moves, we move. Where He goes, we go. Where He leads that is where we go to.

Friend, we need to be busy for Jesus Christ. I don't know whether you think too much about it or not, but we don't have long to be here. Your family and my family are dying lost. We don't have very much time to work. If there was ever a time that we need to be working and being busy, it is today. Jesus Christ is coming very soon. We don't have very much time. Time is going by very soon. I wonder sometimes, are we really following Him? Or, are we following self, the world and all that is going on there. We need to be diligently following Him. When we get saved, when we are converted, not only do we believe Him, not only do we diligently seek Him, not only are we busy following Him; but we have a consciousness about our minds and in our minds. When we get saved, when our lives are changed, when an individual is born into the family of God there is something in our minds we change the way that we think.

There was a time that all we thought about was sin, the world and all that was there. However when we get saved, when the transformation takes place within us, when Jesus Christ moves in, then our way of thinking changes. I am glad that it does.

Enoch, when his son was born, when he started walking with God and after God, then his life began to change and his way of thinking began to change.

Isn't it great what God can do? He can take our minds that we used to have and all the old thoughts and ambitions and all the things that we used to have; God can put some brand new stuff in our minds. He can give us a new outlook on life. He can give us a new purpose.

I am glad that He loves me enough; I'm glad that He cares about me enough that He has transformed us and changed our way of thinking into the way that we should think. If you still yet think the same way you did before you got saved, then you may want to check where you are at. The enemy may have slipped you a counterfeit. He may have convinced you that you got saved but you may not have got saved. Do I still yet have evil thoughts? Do I always think about things that are right? Most definitely not and you don't either. However, I don't sit around all day thinking about garbage. I don't sit around all day looking at garbage and thinking about garbage and wanting to do garbage. I don't do that.

Friend, we may have thoughts that we should not have, and we do. However, there is a difference between having a wrong thought and sitting around all day thinking about evil. There is a difference there.

Enoch began to walk after God. He was diligently seeking God. He was very active in what he was doing here. It also means that he lived a holy life. We talked about being holy this morning. In his conversion, after he is converted, after he begins to follow God, then he starts living a holy life. He starts living a life of separation.

Has Jesus Christ separated you from this world?

There are some things when we get saved that we automatically quit. I quit everything that I could quit before I got saved. I did. I quit everything I done and I tried everything I could to clean myself up. Do you know what I figured out that I could not do? I could not clean myself up.

When Jesus Christ came in, He saved me and He forgave me; and I started living a different life.

Enoch did that. Enoch started living a holy life, a godly life. He started living a life of separation; separated from the world and all that was here. He started living a totally and completely separate life from the sin and the sinfulness that was around him. Enoch started living a different life. You might say, "What does all that matter?" I promise you it is going to matter. It matters today, and very shortly it is going to matter a whole lot. Not only that, but he lived a life of self-control. When we get saved there are some boundaries in our life that we won't go over. When an individual lives within the will of God, when he is walking with God, living close to God as he should be then there are some boundaries that he won't step over. There is a line that has been drawn that we won't go over.

I know some church members that will do anything. There are church members that will do anything. However, Christians living in the will of God, there are some things that we won't do. We won't habitually sin. That does not mean that we won't mess up, trip up and fall sometimes; but we won't habitually every day, day in and day out live in sin. Christian people won't do that. Church people do. However, Christian people will not do that.

He had a very strong witness here for the Lord.

Jude 1:14-15

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Not only was Enoch's life changed, he lived a holy, dedicated, consecrated, separated life from the world and all that was there. He has his speech and a tremendous testimony here that he loved God. He had a very strong witness because do you know what he started doing? He began telling people "There is judgment coming." There are some storm clouds coming. It was not going to be long that God was going to send a flood. Enoch no doubt here had that in the forethought of his mind, but he also was talking about at the end of tribulation there is no doubt. He talking here that there was going to be judgment that was going to come. He talked about the ungodly and all that was here and all that was going on.

Friend, listen. When we have conversion, when we get saved; not do we live different lives, not only do we walk making progress with God, not only are we growing but even our speech will change, even the way that we look at things are changed.

If we are really walking with God, living a holy, consecrated, dedicated life, as we should be living; when we look around this world and see that it is lost, undone and perishing; knowing that God is going to judge us; then we are going to try to convince people to change how they are living. That is what he did.

Before Methuselah was born, he probably never thought about that. However, after the child was born he started walking with God. He started living a different life. He started living a separated life. He could look around and see all the folks that were lost and undone. He had a strong witness to tell people "Hey, you need to repent. You need to straighten up because God is going to send judgment."

Are you warning your folks? Are you warning your children? Are you warning your grandchildren? Are you warning your co-workers? Are you? That is a good question to ask ourselves. Judgment is coming.

We read the newspaper today. If you can't see that the judgment of Almighty God is coming very soon, then I'm afraid that you are very spiritually blind. Jesus Christ, the God of heaven had set some things in motion a long time ago and we seeing these things come to a head now. Judgment is coming very soon. We need to be making sure that we are living right, doing what is right, walking with God, diligently seeking Him and telling people that judgment is going to come very soon.

You might say, "What does it matter if I live a holy life?" "What does it matter whether I live a life of consecration?" "What does it matter whether I live separated from the world?" "What does it matter if I am following Jesus Christ?" Not only does it matter now while you are living it—if there was no heaven, I would still yet want to live a Christian life. If when I die, I was dead like a dog; I would still yet want to live for God while I was living. This is a great life. If somebody like me or somebody like you can have the presence of Almighty God dwelling within us, blessing us, healing us, and providing for us—what could be better? There is nothing that could be better than that.

This isn't all there is. This life, good or bad, this is the best that some people are going to have because there are going to be a lot of people that are going to die lost and spend eternity separated from Almighty God.

"Why does it matter?"

Here is why it matters. It matters because there is going to be a day that life is going to come to an end for us. It may be today for me. It may be tomorrow for you. Or it may be today for you and tomorrow for me. Death is going to come. Life is going to come to an end. The question is this: "How are we going to die?" I'm going to tell you how you are going to die. You are going to die just like you lived.

What I mean by that is that if you lived your life separated from God living a sinful life, never surrendering your life to God, never living a consecrated, dedicated life for God then that is exactly how you are going to die if you don't repent. If you die that way, then there is no hope for you. I know that some people don't like to hear that. It is so important that we understand that we can't live wrong and

expect to die right. It is impossible. We can't live wrong and sinful life, separated from God and never follow God, and never surrender our life over to God and then expect God in some miraculous way, after they put us in the coffin, to transform us and change us. God is not going to do that.

When you go into the coffin, the way you died, that's the way you are going to be for eternity—saved or lost. The coffin is not going to transform you. The funeral director is not going to do anything that is going to change you. He might work on this body, but you are already gone. You are done. You are gone.

Here is the thing. Enoch changed his life. There was something that happened that changed his life. His son was born. He started living a different life. He started walking with God. The Bible says that he lived 365 years.

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not...

Do you know what happened? One day Enoch's family saw him one moment, and the next moment they did not see him anymore. He was gone. He was here then he was gone. They did not see him anymore. As you read the book of Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

It uses the word "translated." The reason he was translated is because he had this testimony that he pleased God. The word "translated" means to be "transposed." It means "moved from one place to another." It also means this. The word "translated" means "to be carried over."

You might say "carried over what?" What did God carry Enoch over? He carried him over death. The thing called death is our enemy, the enemy of this flesh and of this body.

Enoch—God carried him over the river of death. He did not have to go through that. He took him from one place and put him in another place. He transferred him. He did not need a space ship to do it either. He did not need "Spock." He didn't need "Kirk" either. He did not need the space ship "Enterprise." He did not need any of that. God took him from here, this earth, and translated him, or carried him over, or transferred him here into heaven.

You might say "Why did God do that?" Do you know why God did that for him? He did that for him because of how he lived.

The reason that God translated him and took him to heaven the way that He did is because of how that he lived. He lived for God every day. He did not go backwards and forwards and up and down. He was not like a yoyo in his walk with God. He lived for God every day. He was very aware of the presence of God. He lived his life everyday conscious of the fact that there was a God in heaven and that he was walking with him. He was walking close to Him. Because he was living that kind of a life, God transferred him. God carried him over.

Get this.

Enoch did not live like everybody else. He did not die like everybody else either.

There are blessings living for Jesus Christ. If I had time, there is an awesome lesson here that we can look at. There is a comparison that we can make between Enoch being translated and the church being raptured.

If we are living a holy, consecrated, dedicated life for God today, if we are consciously aware of God's presence, we know that He is leading us and guiding us; He is in our lives—we aren't ever going to die. They may take this body and put it in the ground, but the real person that lives on the inside, the real me, the real you; we are not going to die. Isn't that awesome to think about? If we are living as we should be living, living in the will of God, living a holy, consecrated, dedicated life; then there is going to be a day that we are going to be transposed from one place to another or from one position to another. One day we are going to be carried over. One day we are going to be transferred. If you are not living like everybody else, you won't die like everybody else. Truth?

I'm looking forward to going to heaven. Aren't you? We are all going to go together. Whether you died yesterday, and the Lord doesn't come back for a hundred years from now, we are all going to meet in the air and we are all going to heaven tighter. Some of us may take a nap. Some of us may rest a little while. We are not going to face death. Death has no claim on a Christian. Do you know why? Death has no claim because Jesus Christ is alive. If He is on the inside of us, then we are alive and death has no more dominion over us; the real me and the real you; the real person that lives on the inside is never going to die. Isn't that awesome to think about? To live forever!

To live forever...have a body that does not need glasses, or blood pressure medicine, or cancer treatments, heart transplants, canes to walk around on, wheelchairs—we are not going to need that over there. I'm going to be able to see. I have not been able to see a lick all my life, but I'm going to be able to see when I get over there.

We are going to a real place. Don't be afraid of dying if you are saved. I know there are some things that we don't understand about it. There are some things that are foreign to us. The thing that separates us from the next world is death and there are some things that we don't understand about that. However, we are going to jump across that. We are going to be carried across that if we are saved. Just like when you pick up your kids and carry them across a mud puddle because they may not be able to get across themselves; Jesus is going to come and carry us across. That is going to be an awesome day.

Here is the question? Are you saved tonight? Are you living for Him tonight? Has there ever been a time in your life that you have changed directions in your life? Has there ever been a time in your life that you have committed yourself unto Him? I'm not talking about turning over a new leaf. I'm not talking about being baptized. I'm not talking about joining the church. I'm talking about—Are you saved? ...a personal life changing experience with Jesus Christ? That is what I am asking you; that we need to make sure that we have.

If you don't have that tonight, then you are not ready to be carried over. You can ask God to forgive you tonight, He can save you and He will save you. He will forgive you. You can get ready to meet Him tonight.

Come—