

## TALK #16: FOURTH DAY

**Guidelines for Preparation:** As you read through the outline, highlight places where you would be able to personalize the talk within the framework of the main purpose and points to cover. It is important to put your own personal stamp on the main points without simply reading the outline. Once the talk is written, read it out loud several times to be sure that it is not longer than 15 – 20 minutes maximum.

**Overview:** This talk is the wrap-up of the entire Walk With Christ weekend. However, be cautious. You do not have to summarize everything that has been said. Your objective is to send the pilgrims forth into their Fourth Day with enthusiasm and with proper perspective on what these three days have been about. The name of the talk comes from the fact that the pilgrims have spent three days together during this Walk With Christ. Now, they are going to face their Fourth Day. In fact, the rest of your life will be a succession of fourth days. The major theme of the talk continues the idea of perseverance. There will be trials, disappointments, long days of questioning, but the pilgrim must remember: "Christ and I are a majority." Body of Christ has emphasized teamwork. Christian Action has developed a concept of ministry. Changing Our World has projected a field for mission. Fourth Day finalizes the resolve and commitment to be Christ in the world for others.

**Main Purpose:** The main purpose of the talk is to continue what was presented in the Perseverance talk and to introduce the pilgrims to the Fourth Day: each succeeding day will be a "fourth day."

**Introduction:** Now that these three days are drawing to a close, everyone here for the weekend is about to embark on their Fourth Day – a term which refers to every day hereafter for the rest of your life. The purpose of these three days has been to prepare everyone for their Fourth Day, their walk with the Lord every day from here on.

### **Main Points:**

#### **I. Introduction**

For the past three days, you have been on the receiving end of the kind of love the Body of Christ is called to share. We have experienced God's grace through sacrificial acts of agape love and gifts by The Walk With Christ Community. Now, your mission is to bring others into relationship with Christ. You are being sent into the world to become part of God's revelation of His kingdom. But there are two dangers to be aware of: believing you are someone special and believing you are nobody. That's why it's so important that we maintain contact with Christ and other Christians, knowing and keeping our priority and remembering that the Christian life is a perennial pilgrimage.

## II. You have a mission

- A. The purpose of The Walk With Christ is not just to have a good time or for self-benefit, but to strengthen the Christian community and to develop Christian disciples who will give their lives to sharing Christ. The value of these three days for you and for the world depends, not on what has happened these three days, but on what you do with them during your fourth day.
1. Moses has a great experience with the burning bush. But it would never have been known except for what he did with that experience – a pilgrimage which lasted another forty years.
  2. Jonah's three-day experience in the belly of a whale was incredible and changed his life. But his experience got written up in the Bible because of what he did with the rest of his life afterwards. Without the fourth day, his three-day experience would have been forgotten.
  3. You have also encountered God in a unique way this weekend. The experiences of these three days may change the history of the world – or may fade into obscurity and insignificance. It all depends, not on what has happened these three days, but on what you do with it during your fourth day.
- B. Life in grace is not a destination. It is a journey – a journey for the sake of the world. Life in grace is not a satisfactory lifestyle to be achieved. It is a pilgrimage of love, which never ends in this life. This Walk With Christ is not primarily for you. It is for your family, your church, your friends, and all who will come into your sphere of influence.
1. The burning bush was not primarily for Moses. It was for all of the people who were going to come within his circle of influence – a group whose identity God knew beforehand.
  2. Jonah's experience was not primarily for Jonah's benefit. It was for the benefit of his family, his friends, and more than 120,000 people in Nineveh.
  3. This Walk With Christ is not primarily for you. It is for your family, your church, your friends, and many people you haven't met yet.
  4. The purpose of The Walk With Christ is to inspire and equip you to be a disciple whose heart burns with the love of God, who will bring new vision to your church, and who will return with renewed commitment to offer Christ to the world in which you live.
- C. As a result of your Walk With Christ, the world may look different. But remember, your job, the church, your friends, and your social environment have not changed. Only you have changed.
1. Most people will not be interested in your experience here.
  2. Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold, and don't try to squeeze your friends into your mold.
  3. Bear witness to Christ and your renewed zeal for a life in grace through the quality of your walk, not just the quantity of your talk. Seek ways to serve Christ through your church and to employ your energies for love. Exude the joy of the Lord and bring life to the dullness around you.

### III. Two great dangers

The Fourth Day brings with it two great dangers. Briefly stated, they are overconfidence and lack of confidence.

A. **Danger #1 – Believing you are somebody.** It would be a pity if, because of having attended a Walk With Christ, a participant came to think that he/she was somebody special, indispensable, or better than someone else.

1. The Walk With Christ may make us better than we were, but it never makes us better than someone else.
2. You are not the first to find God or to meet Jesus or to experience the Holy Spirit. The Walk With Christ is not the only way or even the main way this is done. Walk With Christ people are not a special breed or fraternity: we are Christians, we are the Church.
3. Be aware that The Walk With Christ is not the only source of spiritual renewal. If **you** have experienced God's grace in a new way this weekend, please remember that you have **only** discovered what millions have been discovering for two thousand years – mostly without attending Walks.
4. There is no record that Moses ever talked to others about the burning bush, or that Jonah ever talked of his three-day experience in the belly of the whale. They were too busy living in grace to exalt past experiences.

B. **Danger #2 – Believing you are nobody.** It would be even more pitiful if, in our first clash with unredeemed reality or with an indifferent Church, we were to become frustrated and give up, believing that we can do nothing to help cure the ills of humanity.

1. It took eighty years for God to get Moses' attention. God went to a lot of trouble to get Jonah's attention. Likewise, God has been very patient and waited too long in getting your attention.
2. God has an especially important part for you to play in the unfolding of the divine agenda. You have inside you the power of the Holy Spirit – resurrection power. This is the power to be instrumental in bringing life in the place of death.
3. Don't try to take on the whole world at once. Remember the progression of the Changing Our World talk: ourselves first, others second, and finally the community and world.

C. Remember, you have an essential role to play. You are called to be the leaven in the loaf, salt in the food, light in the darkness (Matthew 5:13-16). The way you fulfill this role is to

1. Stay in touch with Christ. Jesus said, "Apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Acts of piety, study, and action are means by which Jesus remains a part of our lives. Constant contact with Christ is a life of grace.
2. Stay in touch with friends who share your priority. A coal cannot burn long when drawn apart in isolation from the rest, but it burns long and bright in the company of other burning embers.
3. Stay in touch with people who God has given you to influence. Grace is not given to us to store up, but to share with others. Unless you are allowing God's love to flow through you to others, it will cease to flow through you at all.

#### **IV. Some equipment for the journey**

- A. Have a clear concept of your priority – Keep your focus on Christ. Christ is our model. He is the path which we want to walk. In order to love and serve Christ, we must know Him. Christ is indeed our priority when we offer Him devoted hearts, determined wills, humble strength, and generous lives.
- B. Have a clear concept of the task – The world is in need of change. Changes comes about when Christians like us put forth the effort to change it. God has given us the Spirit; we have to allow ourselves to be used by Him. Of course, there will be resistance. We must be ready to meet it with perseverance and love.
  - 1. Some will not like The Walk With Christ movement.
  - 2. Some do not like aggressive Christians.
  - 3. Some do not like Christians at all!
- C. Have a clear concept of people as God sees them. Your church may not be as spiritually alive as you would like it to be. But your job is not to force change on people or on your church, but to love the people as they are and to present an authentic witness. It's the Holy Spirit's job to convince and to change.
- D. Have a clear concept of holiness – We must not lose the true concept of holiness. Becoming holy does not destroy or take away; rather, it expands life to its fullness.
  - 1. Holiness requires that we use all our talents to the utmost for Christ's kingdom on earth. It means remembering that we are spiritual beings who are related to an eternal God.
  - 2. Maintain a consciousness of your life in grace and destiny in Christ. This is a source of joy and assurance.
  - 3. Trust that God has given you everything you need to live in a truly holy life and to be a living reminder of Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** Through your knowledge of Jesus Christ and your openness to be a channel of God's Spirit, you will come to share the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:3-4) while radiating the love of Christ all around you. May God be with you in your Fourth Day.

### ***De Colores***