

## Week 5 — March 18      Walking in God's Ways

We are five weeks into our Lenten journey. The first four weeks had us looking inward: returning, examining, repenting and trusting. Tonight, we turn outward and look at how we should be living differently. ECC's vision is to be a **caring** community that welcomes people from all walks of life to follow Jesus. We hope to be a place where everyone **grows** as they find their role in partnering with the Holy Spirit, using what God gives us to **serve** at ECC and beyond. Emmanuel Christian Community. May we hear individually and collectively tonight from God as we walk His road together with Him and with our family with God compelled by His love.

### [Speak Oh, Lord](#)

Consider this forest path as an aid to our reflections as we turn a corner in our Lenten journey. We have returned. We have examined our hearts. We have confessed & learned to trust you. But returning to God is never only inward. It becomes visible. It changes how we walk.

Micah says it simply:      ***“Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly with your God.”***

Not grand gestures.      Not heroic faith.      Just steady steps.

Tonight, we ask: What does it look like to actually walk with God in everyday life?

**Mic. 6:8** But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do,  
what GOD is looking for in men and women.  
It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,  
be compassionate and loyal in your love,  
And don't take yourself too seriously—  
take God seriously.

**The Spirit of Truth:**      **John 14:15** “If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you.

**James 1:22** Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. *Act on what you hear!*

**Psa. 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

**Obedience in Scripture is not pressure — it's response. Not earning — but loving.**

We often hear “obedience” and think ... rules, fear, failure...  
But Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commands.”  
Love first.      Then respond.

Not: Obey so God accepts you.

But: You are loved — now live like it's true.

Obedience is simply love with feet and hands.

It's: forgiving when it's hard, telling the truth gently, showing up,  
choosing integrity when no one sees, small faithful steps.

**God usually forms us through ordinary steps, not dramatic leaps.**

[Take My Life and Let It Be](#)

**Please prayerfully reflect on God's compelling love and our response**Litany

**Litany**

Leader: God, you do not rush us — you walk with us.

People: **Teach us to walk in your ways.**

Leader: Where we want quick fixes —

People: **Teach us faithful steps.**

Leader: Where obedience feels costly —

People: **Teach us trust.**

Leader: Where love feels inconvenient —

People: **Teach us mercy.**

Leader: Shape our daily lives into quiet acts of faithfulness.

**All: We want to walk with you, O God.**

**Reflect:**

*What does faithful obedience look like on an ordinary Wednesday?*

*Where might God be inviting one small change in direction?*

*What step have you been postponing that love might move you toward?*

**Prayer:** Lord, not just in church, not just in Lent,  
but in kitchens, classrooms, offices, and streets —  
teach us to walk with you.

Make our lives steady and faithful.

Let love guide our steps.

Amen.

[Day By Day and With Each Passing Moment](#)

**Thank you for coming tonight and spending the time looking forward on our journeys with God and with one another in community and fellowship faithfully one step at a time. If you'd like to remain in prayer, praise and reflecting, I'll play this closing song that may be new to you. Feel free to leave or to follow along with the lyrics.**

[Oh Jesus, I Have Promised](#)

**Speak O Lord** by Keith & Kristyn Getty

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy Word  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us, Lord, full obedience  
Holy reverence, true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of pow'r that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

**Take My Life, and Let It Be**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;

Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose,  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart; it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

**Day By Day and With Each Passing Moment**

Day by day, and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,  
Gives unto each day what He deems best,  
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord Himself is near me,  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares He fain would bear & cheer me,  
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.  
The protection of His child and treasure  
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;  
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"  
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then, in every tribulation,  
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,  
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation,

Offered me within Thy holy Word.  
Help me, Lord, when toil & trouble meeting,  
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,  
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
Till with Christ the Lord I stand.

***“Walking faithfully,  
not dramatically.”***

***“Faithfulness is formed  
one step at a time.”***

### **O Jesus, I Have Promised**

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
Oh, speak to reassure me,  
To hasten, or control;  
Oh, speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;

And Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Oh, give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my Friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in Thy strength alone.  
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then to rest receive me,  
My Savior and my Friend.

***“Small obediences  
shape holy lives.”***

***“To walk with God  
is to trust the next step.”***

***“The spiritual life is not a  
special life; it is simply life  
lived with God.”***

**Henri Nouwen**