



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

August 2, 2009

Walking in the Will of God

By James Sutherland

Today's reading in John is one that speaks many truths about how our lives should be lives of Love and Godliness! There is no limit to the things and people we can have an impact on in our daily lives! Being in the army of God has forever changed and directed my life into new hope and freedom I can't explain except by saying "I just chose to follow God." I now after being in the Philippines honestly see the truths about having a hunger and a desire to seek the calling of God in life! It is not a huge revelation or burning bush that is going to let you know Gods will for you or me! It's making everyday being about helping those in need. I will tell you that the first day I went into the jails in the Philippines something in my heart told me to start and minister to these men! At the start I did not know if it would be possible but God is just and he has been abundant in the ministry! Psalm 32:9 says "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye". I can remember saying many prayers asking God to continue and guide my life so I can be in this for his glory and not any other reason! We went into the jails twice a week and God just used this church and others to shine his light in the Philippines! The bible says in Acts 1:8 "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. I can testify that each week as we shared messages God opened my eyes and heart to his word and what it had to offer. The guys in the jails began to see and feel a change take place in them they did not see possible! I can remember that being me at one point. I myself was addicted, hopeless, and did not see any hope for me. In 2007 at Teen Challenge people ministered to me in ways that still manifest in me today! In Matthew 25:34 it tells us God has a plan for each of us to each of us from the foundation of the world. What is that plan?? Each of us is called to ministry. Jesus goes on to say "I was hungry and you gave me food, I

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 info@stjohnsky.com www.stjohnsky.com



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

August 2, 2009

was thirsty and you gave me something to eat, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." I only then realized that our cultures may be different, our languages may be different, we may eat different foods, but the word of God and the power of Christ is the same no matter what! As we walk in his will more and more every day we will begin to see his blessings on others and also the change that will take place in us personally. The more we live for him and in his will the more we will become like him! It is not always the easiest to do and we do make mistakes! I myself have made many. It's where we set our hearts in life that matters! Are we set to serve God and be disciples?? I think so! A wise man once told me "It's not talent that matters its availability." Being available to reach out when needed! We are one body together each role played by each man or woman serves for the good of Christ! Whether you sing in the choir, set up the altar, acolyte, fix breakfast, or just simply say something to brighten up a smile on a face it is all God working through you to better the community around you! Galatians 5:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me." I myself while abroad read this verse on a humid day and can remember thinking that my old life has been washed clean. My new life has just started. I am a tool for God to use and so is the same for each of us here today. When I truly think about the price that Christ paid on the cross for my sins I realize he gave his life so we could be free, I know the most I can do is give my life to him. I again would like to say thank you to this church for the overwhelming support you showed while I was in the Philippines. God is using you to help people who need it most. So as we leave from here let us go out and let world see our light shine for him!

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 info@stjohnsky.com www.stjohnsky.com