

They were long days, the days of football practice. My son was on the team, so these weeks leading to the season start, he was exhausted with the required two-a-days. Even once school began, practices kept him on the field, late after school. Evening after evening, I'd go pick him up, worn and tired after a long practice. As the season progressed, the practices seemed longer and later. Just like other waiting parents, I'd sit in the parking lot in the car and wait. He'd return from the field, head into the school for his stuff, and come out to the car. One evening, as the sun was finishing its day, I was waiting in the lot. Far off across the field, I could sort of make out players scrambling and lining up for a quick coach-talk. Squinting, I tried to determine which one was my son. Too hard. Too far away. As I watched the line of players grab their helmets and pencil their way into the building, I kept looking. Silhouetted against the orange sky, they trudged singly or in twos. Heads low, shoulders slumped--I could tell they were beat, exhausted. Studying the silhouettes, I hadn't seen him. Then I saw him. Even though I couldn't make out his image, I could tell it was my son, because I know his walk. I could identify him by the way he walked.



Since that time identifying my son's silhouette, I've reflected on it, many times. If I could identify him without seeing him, but by his walk, I can't help but wonder if I'm known by my walk. Oh, I would want that! I'd like it if people looked at my walk, and could tell who I am, and who my Father is. I'm motivated by the words in 1John 2:6 "Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."(ESV) This tells me that, as I model Him, I am following Christ. 1 Peter 2:21 says "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."(NKJ) Trying to follow in His steps, I know my *steps* are the choices I make daily in everything I do, in everything I choose to say. Jesus said, in John 13:15 "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."(NIV) He wants me to do as He did. This means I need to treat others as Jesus did, and to speak with thought and consideration, as Jesus did. Max Lucado said, "To call yourself a child of God is one thing. To be called a child of God by those who watch your life is another thing altogether." How true! Ephesians 5:1 "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children."(NKJ) I need to make sure my actions are like those of Christ, to the best of my ability. I am so motivated by the words in Philippians 3:17: "Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."(NIV) I was able to look at my son's silhouette, and I knew he was mine. My sincere desire is to walk in a manner that someone could see my walk and know that I belong to the Father! --Linda Dunlap