

# Walking Through the Pasture

There is an amusing story about Jay Wilkinson, son of Bud Wilkinson, head football coach at the University of Oklahoma from 1947 to 1963.

Jay ran for Congress some years ago. Many people thought he would win easily. After all, Jay Wilkinson was an All-American football player at Duke University who married a Miss America finalist after graduating from Harvard Divinity School.

Young, handsome and idealistic, Jay was a perfect subject for Madison Avenue wizardry. A television commercial was designed that pictured Jay and his wife walking hand-in-hand through an Oklahoma pasture. As they walked, they looked soulfully upward at the sky to the accompaniment of soft music with the tag in the ad, *A Better Tomorrow for all Oklahomans*.

The incumbent, Tom Steed, was a good old boy with real sod-kicking credentials. He knew he was in for a tough fight.

So he scheduled only a 40-second answer to Wilkinson's spot. He looked into a camera and said, "I may not have a fancy degree from Harvard like young Wilkinson, but I do know enough not to look at the sky when I am walking in a cow pasture."

The result? Steed won.



Most likely, Jesus gets weary with Christians who walk through cow pastures staring at the sky – Christians who are continually looking to God to solve their problems for them when God has given them good minds to solve their own problems.

We know there are some problems in life that we need to depend on God to solve, because we can't. But in a world of real problems, we should roll up our sleeves and seek after real-life solutions.

Let's get busy being the shrewd, effective disciples Jesus has called us to be.

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter