

Walking the Walk

A Japanese social worker named Toyohiko Kagawa, who lived before and during World War II, was a devout Christian whose faith caused him to have an extraordinary impact on the working conditions of ordinary citizens in Japan.

He was so well thought of in that land that he came on a mission to the United States before the start of the war, seeking to prevent that terrible conflict from breaking out. Even though he failed in this effort, he gained international renown for his Christian witness and selfless work.

Years later, Kagawa was on a lecture tour in the United States. Two college students were walking across their campus after hearing him speak. One of them confessed that he was disappointed in Kagawa's simple message.

After some reflection, the other student replied, "I suppose it really doesn't matter very much what a man says when he has lived as Kagawa has lived."

That is true. In today's vernacular, it is more important that Kagawa walked the walk and not just talked the talk. His vocation to help the poor, for example, led him to live among them. He established schools, hospitals and churches. He once said, "I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about."

A consecrated life is far more eloquent and convincing than any well-thought-out argument.

The world will not accept the way of Christ because we can out-talk our spiritual opponents, but only because we can out-live them. Such a demonstration of the superior quality of our faith will verify our witness more readily than any other effort in which we can engage.

Kagawa did that superbly. His life, however, was simply a reflection of the life of his Master.

Jesus walked the walk perfectly – more than anyone who ever lived could do. He lived out the ethic which He taught. He was totally committed to doing His Father's will. He was a man of courage, a man of commitment.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

