



## THE GOSPEL IN APPALACHIAN WOOD CARVINGS

# DR. JOHN MACK WALKER, JR.



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## About Rev. Walker (1915 - 1998)

Reverend Dr. John Mack Walker, Jr. was an ordained Presbyterian minister who served as the senior pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke Rapids (NC) from 1942 - 1980. He graduated from Davidson College as salutatorian in 1936.

Between 1943 and 1998 he carved 62 sculptures, 30 of which are now part of the collection of the Presbyterian Heritage Center. Entitled "The Gospel in Appalachian Wood Carvings," this series presents Gospel stories in both their mystery and their matter-of-factness. Walker based many of the figures on real people he knew and carved them in 20th-century attire.

The other 33 carvings are housed with Walker's family and friends or at various churches, colleges, and seminaries.

# Scenes from the Gospels

*About the wood carvings*

## Inspiration

Walker's early carvings were often based on etchings by Rembrandt. As his art progressed, he began composing original layouts, sometimes adapting an idea to a specific block of wood. The sculptures often reimagine Biblical figures in more contemporary settings: Jesus among the rhododendrons on an Appalachian peak; Matthew behind his desk in a county office building.

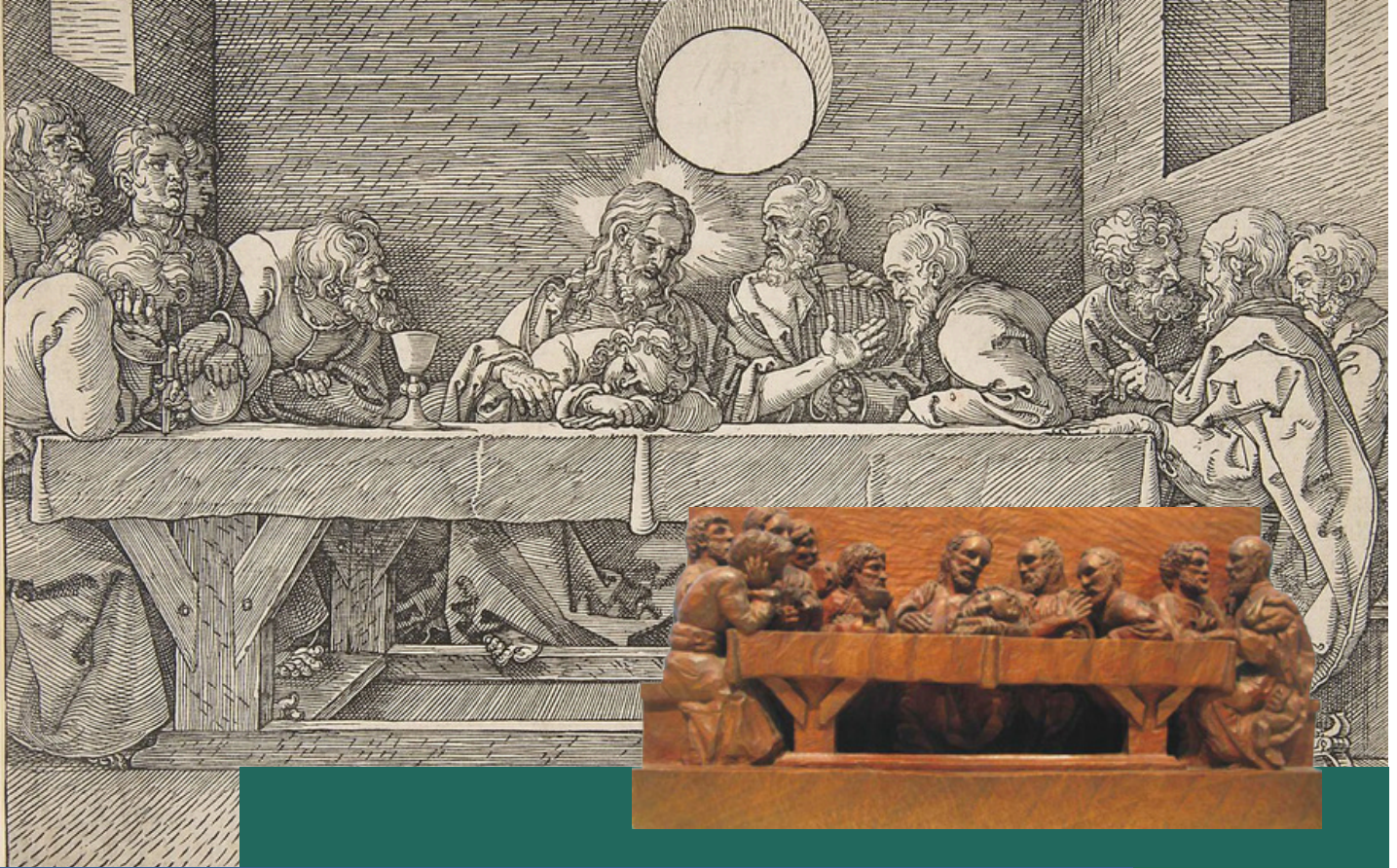
Obscure figures from the Gospels come alive, such as "Paul before Felix," the haughty Roman Governor leaning back in his chair as Paul pleads his case, or "Mnason Remembers," which is based on a brief reference in Acts to "Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple" with whom Paul stayed in Jerusalem.

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## From the Artist

*"The sculptures are part of my attempt to think about some of the narratives from the Gospels. A great New Testament scholar, C. H. Dodds, has pointed out that these stories should be approached from two stances of matter-of-factness and mystery. This insight has been central in my attempt to carve these scenes. Since I am a native of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and for many years Montreat has been my second home, I am naturally drawn to the ruggedness of people who are part of the mountains. That love is obviously reflected in these carvings."*





## The Last Supper

*1956, Modeled on a 1523 woodcut by Albrecht Dürer  
Walnut, 8" x 14.5" x 4"*

### **Luke 22: 14-20**

*[14] And when the hour came, he sat at the table, and the apostles with him. [15] And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; [16] for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." [17] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves; [18] for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." [19] And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [20] And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*



# Peter's Denial

*1957, modeled on a wood engraving by Fritz Eichenburg  
Walnut, 8" x 14.5" x 4"*



## Mark 14: 72

*[72] And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.*

# Christ Walking on the Waves

*1959, modeled on an etching by Rembrandt  
East Indian Laurel, 11.25" x 9" x 4.25"*

## Matthew 14: 29-31

*[29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; [30] but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?"*







## The Adoration of the Shepherds with the Lamp

*1958, modeled on an etching by Rembrandt  
Walnut, 6.5" x 8" x 4"*

### **Luke 2: 15 – 18**

*[15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." [16] And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. [17] And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; [18] and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.*



# The Walk to Emmaus

1961

Avodiré (African White Mahogany)

16" x 18.5" x 10"

This was the first sculpture by Rev. John Mack Walker Jr. to use contemporary figures in Appalachian clothing. It won an award from the North Carolina Museum of Art contest and led to his full series of depicting The Gospels with mountain people.



## Luke 24: 13 - 24

*[13] That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles from Jerusalem, [14] and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. [15] While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. [16] But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. [17] And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. [18] Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" [19] And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, [20] and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. [21] But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. [22] Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning [23] and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. [24] Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." [25] And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! [26] Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" [27] And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

# Soldiers Gambling for Christ's Garments

*1962, modeled after an etching by Rembrandt  
Lignum vitae, 15" x 8" x 3.5"*



## **John 19: 23-24**

*[23] When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; [24] so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."*

# Saint Paul

*1964  
Walnut, 12.5" x 21" x 8"*



## **Acts 22: 6 - 11**

*[6] "As I made my journey and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. [7] And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' [8] And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.' [9] Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. [10] And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' [11] And when I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus."*



# Presentation in the Temple

1963

Walnut, 22.25" x 18.25" x 8.5"

## Luke 2: 25-38

*[25] Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*

*[26] And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

*[27] And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, [28] he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, [29] "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; [30] for mine eyes have seen thy salvation [31] which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, [32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."*

*[33] And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; [34] and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against*

*[35] (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."* [36] And there

*was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity,*

*[37] and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.*

*[38] And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*



# Mnason Remembers

1965

Walnut, 20" x 8.5" x 10"

In this carving, the seated Mnason is playing a flute; this is the artist's conception since it is not mentioned in the Scriptures.

## Acts 21: 15 - 17

*[15] After these days we made ready and went up to Jerusalem. [16] And some of the disciples from Caesare'a went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge. [17] When we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.*



# Paul Before Felix

1967

Walnut, 22.5" x 17" x 9.5"

## Acts 24: 14–15

*[14] But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the law or written in the prophets, [15] having a hope in God which these themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.*





# The Adoration of the Magi

1966

Red Cedar, 42" x 15" x 15"

This is the largest Walker sculpture in our collection.

## Matthew 2: 1-12

*[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, [2] "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."*

*[3] When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; [4] and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5] They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: [6] `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"*



*[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; [8] and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." [9] When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; [11] and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12] And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

# Supper at Emmaus

1968

Walnut, 17.5" x 25.75" x 14.25"



## Luke 24: 28–35

[28] So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, [29] but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. [30] When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. [31] And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. [32] They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" [33] And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, [34] who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" [35] Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

# Christ and the Children

1970

Walnut, 17.5" x 25.75" x 14.25"



## Mark 10: 13–16

[13] And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. [14] But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. [15] Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." [16] And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.



# The Appearance to Mary Magdalene

1971

Rosewood, 33" x 13" x 4"

## John 20: 10–18

*[10] Then the disciples went back to their homes. [11] But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; [12] and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. [13] They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." [14] Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. [15] Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." [16] Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-bo'ni!" (which means Teacher). [17] Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." [18] Mary Mag'dalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.*



# John Pointing to Christ

1974

*Avodire (African White Mahogany), 22.75" x 19.5" x 11"*

## John 1: 35–39

*[35] The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; [36] and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" [37] The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. [38] Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" [39] He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.*



## Saint John

1976

*Walnut, 24" x 7" x 6.25"*



# The Denial of Peter

1975

Walnut, 19.5" x 15" x 12"

The woman figure holding the lantern is Rev. John Mack Walker's daughter who then was a college student. While at home before returning, she remembers having to put on a kerchief and hold a lantern so that dad could make drawings and measurements for carving while she was away at school.



## Mark 14: 66–72

*[66] And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came; [67] and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." [68] But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway. [69] And the maid saw him, and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." [70] But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." [71] But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." [72] And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.*

# Christ in Winter

1977

Walnut, 22.25" x 17" x 11"



## **John 10: 22–28**

*[22] It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; [23] it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. [24] So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." [25] Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; [26] but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. [27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; [28] and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.*



# Invitation to Zacchaeus

1979

Walnut, 30.5" x 12" x 12"

## Luke 19: 1-10

*[1] He entered Jericho and was passing through. [2] And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. [3] And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. [4] So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." [6] So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. [7] And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." [8] And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." [9] And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."*



# Jesus at the Well

1981

Walnut, 18" x 14" x 13"

## John 4: 1–15

*[1] Now when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John [2] (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), [3] he left Judea and departed again to Galilee. [4] He had to pass through Samar'ia.*

*[5] So he came to a city of Samar'ia, called Sy'char, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. [6] Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. [7] There came a woman of Samar'ia to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." [8] For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. [9] The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samar'ia?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. [10] Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." [11] The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? [12] Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" [13] Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, [14] but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." [15] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."*







# Calling of Andrew and Peter

1983

*Black Cherry, 26" x 19" x 11"*

## Mark 1: 16–18

*[16] And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.*

*[17] And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." [18] And immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

# Healing of Bartimaeus

1984

*Walnut, 16" x 15" x 12"*



## Mark 10: 46 – 52

*[46] And they came to Jericho; and as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimae'us, a blind beggar, the son of Timae'us, was sitting by the roadside. [47] And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he*

*began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" [48] And many rebuked him, telling*

*him to be silent; but he cried out all*

*the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [49] And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; rise, he is calling you." [50] And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. [51] And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Master, let me receive my sight." [52] And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.*

# The Arrival of the Shepherds

1985

Walnut, 18.5" x 22" x 15"

## Luke 2: 8 – 20

*[8] And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. [10] And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; [11] for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, [14] "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" [15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." [16] And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. [17] And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; [18] and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.*

*[19] But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*





# Naomi and Ruth

1986

Walnut, 25.5" x 10.5" x 8"



## Ruth 1: 11-18

*[11] But Na'omi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? [12] Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, [13] would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me." [14] Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. [15] And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." [16] But Ruth said,*

*"Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; [17] where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if even death parts me from you." [18] And when Na'omi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.*

# Christ in the Wilderness

1988

Black Cherry, 21" x 23" x 21"



Carved in full relief from the solid trunk.

## Mark 1: 12-13

*[12] The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. [13] And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.*

# Nicodemus By Night

1980

Walnut, 21.25" x 8.25" x 9"



## John 3: 1-21

[1] Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

[2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." [3] Jesus answered him,

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is

born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." [4] Nicodemus said to him,

"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to

you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the

kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which

is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must

be born anew.' [8] The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with

every one who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can

this be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet

you do not understand this? [11] Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what

we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe,

how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? [13] No one has

ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of

man. [14] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must

the Son of man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have

eternal life." [16] For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that

whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For

God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the

world might be saved through him. [18] He who believes in him is not

condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he

has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. [19] And this is the

judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness

rather than light, because their deeds were evil. [20] For every one who

does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds

should be exposed. [21] But he who does what is true comes to the light,

that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.



# The Calling of Matthew

1991

*Black Cherry, 18.5" x 16" x 16"*



## **Matthew 9: 9**

*[9] As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.*

# The Return of the Prodigal

1992

Walnut, 21.5" x 9" x 5"

## Luke 15: 11-32

[11] And he said, "There was a man who had two sons;  
[12] and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. [13] Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. [14] And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. [15] So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. [16] And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. [17] But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! [18] I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; [19] I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' [20] And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. [21] And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' [22] But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; [23] and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; [24] for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. [25] "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. [26] And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. [27] And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' [28] But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, [29] but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. [30] But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' [31] And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. [32] It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"





# The Treasure in a Field

1995

Cherry, 21" x 16" x 13"

## Matthew 13: 36 - 44

[36] Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." [37] He answered, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of man; [38] the field is the world, and the good seed means the sons of the kingdom; the weeds are the sons of the evil one, [39] and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. [41] The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, [42] and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. [44] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.



# SEE MORE

*Other carvings by John Mack Walker, Jr.*

- **First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke Rapids (NC):** Walker served as senior minister at the church from 1942 - 1980. He carved *Supper at Emmaus* c1963 as an inset for the church's new sanctuary, which had burned in 1961.
- **Davidson College (Davidson, NC):** Davidson College Library is home to *The Servant Christ* (1969). The walnut carving was originally titled, *Christ Washing the Disciples' Feet*.
- **Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA):** *Christ Teaching* (1972) and *The Calling of Andrew* (1976)
- **William Black Lodge (North Carolina Terrace, Montreat, NC):** *Celtic Cross* (1982)
- **Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA):** *Disciples at the Transfiguration* (1978)
- **Elkin Presbyterian Church (Elkin, NC):** *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (1993)
- **Black Mountain Presbyterian Church (Black Mountain, NC):** *A Child in Their Midst* (1997)







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