

Luke 2.39-52

“In My Father’s House”

FAITH ON THE LINE – God’s People in Challenging Times

“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” R 15.4

JESUS – our Savior and Lord – ALSO OUR RIGHTEOUS EXAMPLE

Example – FOR YOUTH and Parents / WWJD – question for us all

Imagine a PERFECT CHILD! – we have 3 – just ask them!

GOSPEL – good news / not biography - Book of Salvation about Savior

NOT EXHAUSTIVE RECORD OF JESUS LIFE – “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written” Jn 21.25

JOHN’S PURPOSE / SAME FOR OUR ALL FOUR GOSPELS

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” 20.31

PURPOSE STATEMENT OF LUKE – 19.10?

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost”

REASON WHY 1/3 of Gospel Record is on Last Week of Jesus’ on Earth
HOLY WEEK – Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday – ACCOMPLISHMENT

LUKE – only event of Jesus life btwn INFANCY & PUBLIC MINISTRY – 30

1. The Parents

a. **Faithful** – Mary and Joseph were good and godly parents

2.39 “did everything required by the Law of the Lord”

2.41 “Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover”

LAW OF GOD THRU MOSES – Exodus 23.14-17

“Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me...the Feast of Unleavened Bread...The Feast of Harvest...the Feast of Ingathering...three times a year all THE MEN are to appear before the Sovereign Lord”

AFTER JEWISH CAPTIVITY AND EXILE – BEST WENT ONLY ONCE
Not all were faithful to do even that

REQUIRED FOR MEN – but Mary went too

COULD HAVE HAD ENOUGH TRAVELING AFTER JESUS BIRTH
70 miles on Donkey – Nazareth to Bethlehem – 9 months pregnant
THEN – Longer Trip to Egypt – Infant Jesus – No Disposable Diapers
ENOUGH TO MAKE MOST MOTHERS GIVE UP ON LONG TRIPS

GODLY CHARACTER – Annunciation - 1.38 “I am the Lord’s servant”

Magnificent 1.47 “my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant”

HONORED BY GOD - 1.42 “Blessed are you among women”

PARENTS TODAY - DO WELL TO STUDY THEIR FAITHFULNESS
May such faith live in us and flow from us to many generations

DANGER WHEN NOT KEPT ALIVE IN EACH GENERATION

To our forefathers, faith was an experience
To our fathers, faith was an inheritance
To us, faith is a convenience
To our children, faith is a nuisance

b. **Fretful** – Good parents but not perfect parents

2.48 “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

NOT WORDS OF SINLESS WOMAN – not worthy of prayers or worship

UNDERSTANDABLE ANXIETY – she had lost her first-born son

TRIP TO FEASTS – worshippers traveled in CARAVANS
 Men in Front / Women & small children in rear // TEENS ON THEIR OWN?
 Mary and Joseph each thought Jesus was with THE OTHER ONE

2.46 “After three days they found him” -ANXIETY ESCALATED TO ANGER

1) Traveling Back Home 2) Returning to Jerusalem 3) Looking in Jerusalem
 FEAR OF PROPHECY OF SIMEON 2.35 “a sword will pierce your heart”

WE ARE ANXIOUS WHEN BOYS ARE 3 HOURS LATE – NOT 12!!
 HARD TO TRUST GOD WITH YOUR CHILDREN – PRECIOUS GIFT
 Learn that HE IS WORTHY of our Trust

Biggest reason Young People do not do Mission Work – Parents Not Support
 HARD LESSON – He who gave our children / Best Job of keeping them!

Adoniram Judson – Graduated from Theological Seminary in early 1800’s
 CALLED to be Ass’t Pastor – Famous, Fashionable Church in Boston
 FAMILY WAS HAPPY AND PROUD – son shocked parents and said
 “God is calling me beyond the seas. To stay and serve God in Boston would
 only be a partial obedience, I could not be happy with that”
 America’s FIRST MISSIONARY – Burma / Myanmar – 50,000 converts

c. **Fortunate** – Good parents blessed with VERY GOOD BOY

2.40 “the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the
 grace of God was upon him”

2.52 “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men”

CATCH THEM BEING GOOD – AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE THEM
 OFTEN EDUCATION BASED ON NEGATIVISM, CRITICISM, SHAME

Study of One Classroom – all students were about the same intellectual level
 Teacher told – ½ were EXCEPTIONAL / ½ AVERAGE
 END OF YEAR “EXCEPTIONAL” – improved by full grade point / not others
 DIFFERENCE? – teacher’s positive, and expectant treatment of exceptional
 PARENTS & TEACHERS – ALL POSITIVE AND EXPECTANT

GREAT AND MIGHTY GOD – “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
 are hidden in Christ” Coloss 2.3

2. The Boy Jesus

VERY SPECIAL CHILD OF MARY – fullness of God and man

Travelers in Caravan to Festival – DID NOT SEE HALO, ICON, SUPERMAN

a. Son of the Law

2.42 “When he was twelve years old” / SIGNIFICANT SPIRITUAL PASSAGE

BAR MITZVAH – son of the Law – JEWS PASSAGE to RESPONSIBILITY

NOW JEWISH LAD IS SPIRITUALLY AND MORALLY INDEPENDENT
Makes own spiritual decisions – memorized Law – CONSEQUENCES OWN

ISRAEL’S BEST TEACHERS GATHERED FOR THIS FEAST

2.46 “sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking questions”

“Here O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” Deut 6.4-7

CONSTITUTION OF ISRAEL – God is One / Love Him / Share Him

First word to parents – NOT TELL KIDS WHAT TO DO – Love God & Obey
LIFE EXAMPLE IS MOST POWERFUL LESSON

TEACHING– IN LIFE, NOT JUST LABORATORY / practice, not theory

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISOLATION AND INNOCULATION

MANY PARENTS TRY to GIVE SPIRITUAL TRAINING BY ISOLATION
SHELTERING KIDS FROM WORLD – no, no, no, don’t do this or that
POSSIBLE WHEN THEY’RE YOUNG

OLDER – HARD TO KEEP THEM IN THE SHELTER – BREAK OUT!

ISOLATION – Rom 7.9 “when the commandment came, sin sprang to life”
LAW IN THE EARS OF SINNERS AROUSES THEIR APPETITES

DO NOT DO THIS – IT IS BAD = “I cannot wait to try it”

INNOCULATION – giving someone a small dose of disease to allow their body time to build up a resistance to the real thing

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up

TEACH THEM TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD AS GOD’S PILGRIM
BIRDS CAN FLY OVER OUR HEAD / DON’T HAVE TO NEST IN HAIR

VALUES, MORALS, STYLES, APPETITES, OPINIONS – CHRIST FIRST

SEX-SATURATED SOCIETY – Isolation – Sex is Bad = Looks Good to Me!

Innoculation – Sex is Great Gift from God – GIVER SETS TERMS OF USE
MARRIAGE PROPER CONTEXT – No Practice Needed – You’ll learn

GREAT EXAMPLE – Father went with boys to Computer Game Center

Jesus was a Son of God’s Law – DEFINED HIS TEACHING

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them”
Matt 5.17

Challenged His Enemies – “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?” Jn 8.46

b. Son of God

2.49 “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

CONTRAST – 2.48 “your father and I have been anxiously looking for you”

LAST TIME IN SCRIPTURE JOSEPH MENTIONED – Jesus’ step-father

1.35 ANGEL SAID “the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God”

GOD AND MAN FROM BIRTH – KNEW IT – GROWING AWARENESS

PUBLIC DECLARATION AS BEGAN MINISTRY – baptism by John
 3.22 “a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son whom I love, with you I am well pleased”

JESUS LATER SAID “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is, except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” 10.22

AT HIS TRIAL HIS ENEMIES ASK “Are you the Son of God?”
 He replied, “You are right in saying that I am.” 22.70

Napoleon Bonaparte “I marvel in that the ambitious dreams of myself, Caesar, and Alexander have vanished into thin air, a Judean peasant, Jesus, should be able to stretch his hands across the destinies of men and nations. I know men; and I tell you that JESUS CHRIST IS NO MERE MAN. Between him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlamagne, and I have founded empires. But these creations of ours depend on force. Jesus alone founded an empire upon love, and to this day, millions would die for him.”

FROM THE BEGINNING HE WAS THE WORD,
 AND THE WORD WAS GOD

c. **Son of Favor** 2.52 grew in favor with God and man

Elizabeth to her cousin Mary “Blessed is the child you will bear” 1.42

Jesus was a Normal, Growing Boy – Grew in Every Way – Grew even Better

Hebrews 2.17 “he had to be made perfect in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of his people”

Heb 5.7 “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be a high priest in the order of Melchizedek”

SPECIAL SON- NOT SPOILED SON – Qualified to SAVE - SUFFERING

GROWTH IN FAVOR TRACED BY LUKE

3.22 BAPTISM – “You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased”

4.15 “He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him”

4.22 “All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words which came from his lips”

4.32 “they were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority”

MAY OUR CHILDREN – AND PARENTS – GROW IN FAVOR WITH GOD

LIKE JESUS – OUR GROWTH IS PAINFUL – PRAYERS AND TEARS

“For those God foreknew he also predestinated to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the first among many brothers” Rom 8.29

CONFORMITY MEANS CRUCIFIXION – death to sin, daily consecration

IS OUR FAITH GROWING WITH US INTO ADULTHOOD

TELL OUR CHILDREN THEY NEED AT LEAST A MASTER’S DEGREE
MASTER’S LEVEL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD & HIS WORD??

3. The Christian

LESSONS FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN FOLLOWING THIS JESUS

a. Obedient, Yet Misunderstood

2.47 “Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding”

ALMOST EVERYONE – NOT HIS PARENTS!

2.50 “But they did not understand what he was saying to them”

2.51 “Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them”

“THEN” – shows a readiness and immediacy of obedience

HOW MANY TIMES DO PARENTS HAVE TO CALL US TO OBEY?

JESUS DID NOT SAY “Just a minute, let me hear one more sermon...”

“WITH THEM” – was not the arrogant little brat of the Caravan home

12 year old son who went with his humble, and sinful, parents

“OBEDIENT” – How could the perfect submit to the imperfect?

What could they possibly teach him? What did they know compared to Him?

THESE ARE QUESTIONS I AM OFTEN ASKED AT HOME!

POSITION OF SUBMISSION / PLACE OF BLESSING AND GROWTH

QUALIFIED - “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me” Mt 11.29

PAINFUL TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY ANYONE – ESP. PARENTS

Following a Master who has been there

DID THE RIGHT THING EVEN WHEN MISUNDERSTOOD

7.34 “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. But wisdom is proved right by her children”

9.18 Asked disciples “Who do men say that I am? Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets”

Called to Obey – Jonathan Edwards – America’s Greatest Theologian

Five Life Resolutions

1. To live with all my might while I do live
2. Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I can
3. Never to do anything which I should despise or think poorly of in another
4. Never to do anything out of revenge
5. Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

b. Family Torn, Yet Made New

EVEN AT THAT TENDER AGE OF 12 – HE KNEW HIS REAL FATHER

PEACE ONLY WHEN REAL MOTHER FOLLOWED HIS REAL FATHER

HE WAS NOT LOST – IN HIS FATHER’S HOUSE

AS AN ADULT HIS FAMILY CAME TO VISIT “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice” 8.21

LATER – “Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you but division...father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother” 12.51-53

NOTHING SHOULD RIVAL OUR LOVE AND LOYALTY TO GOD
IF FAMILY TRIES TO SIT ON GOD’S THRONE – WILL BE DEPOSED

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, even his wife and children, his brothers and sisters --- yes, even his own life --- he cannot be my disciple” 14.26

LOVE FOR JESUS SHOULD BE VASTLY, INCOMPARABLY GREATER

C.T. STUDD “Marriage can be a great blessing or great curse, depending on where you place the cross”

c. Lonely, Yet Not Alone

Growing Number of Street kids who live alone without Parents ABANDONED

3 DAYS – 12 YEAR OLD JESUS – LIKE A STREET KID / not really

ANXIETY IN HIS MOTHER’S VOICE – BUT NOT HIS

PEACEFULLY REPORTED “I am in my Father’s house”

WORLD HAS NO PLACE FOR JESUS

BIRTH – Laid in a feeding trough

LIFE – Son of Man had no where to lay his head

DEATH – Only place world could find for Jesus – nailed to a Cross

ABANDONED – “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?”

PASSED THRU DARKNESS OF HELL “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”

LONELY, BUT NOT ALONE

This is my Father’s world, Oh let me never forget, and though the wrong seems oh so strong, God is the ruler yet.