PVIC - Sunday Service – 11/05/2017

**Exposition on Luke – 2:41-52**

**Being in the Father’s Business!**

“Why were you searching for me? He asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s business (house)?” Luke 2:49

Introduction

I’m glad this morning both our Sunday School students and their teachers have joined with us! Let me ask you, how many of you’re 5 years or younger? How many are 5 to 12? How many are above 12 years old? What I’m going to share with you today is very important to all of you, children as well as parents – and all of us! Let me ask you another question: ‘how many of you came to the church today because you really wanted to come?

Spiritual Discipline of the Family

Let me read the first 2 verses: 2:41-42 (Read). It was the requirement of the Law given to the people of Israel through Moses that they must observe these three important feasts: 1) Passover; 2) Pentecost; and 3) the Feast of the Tabernacle. As the time went by and the Jewish people were so scattered away from Jerusalem, those who live far away did not quite observe this law. There were leniency as far as attending it every year – besides, women didn’t need to go! However, Jesus’ parents, both Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem every year to attend the Feast of the Passover. It was expensive, inconvenient, and difficult, but they made sure, honoring God, worshipping God was number one priority in their family! Since it was a family discipline, they did not have to pressure, or force Jesus o go with them to such an uncomfortable journey that took him away from his friends, favorite television shows, games and social interactions!

Rabi Judah ben Tema taught that the Jewish boys should learn the Scripture at age 5, the Law at age 10, and learn to fulfill all the laws by age 13, and then they should learn the Talmud, the Jewish Commentaries on the Old Testament by age 15. It makes perfect sense, because the science tells us that 85% of a child’s character is developed in the first 5 years of his or her life! What better way to develop the character of a child than through the Word of God?

Sometimes people ask me what age should I let my son or daughter to get baptized? What age can they partake from the Holy Communion? My answer is, ‘there is no age limit; whenever they’re saved – accepting Jesus Christ as their savior, fully knowing what it means! Polycarp, the bishop of the early Church, a bold leader and a martyr for Christ accepted Jesus as his savior at age 9. Jonathan Edwards, whose preaching stirred up New England brought people on their knees before Christ, accepted Christ as his savior when he was 7. Charles Spurgeon, the prince of preachers came to Christ at age 12, and began pastoring at age 17. In one of his sermons he said, “Before a child reaches 7, teach him all there is of heaven, and better still, the work will fly, if he learns before he is 5.” What are we doing with our children? Can we blame them or the society for turning out the way they are, when we’ve all our priorities messed up and do not have enough time for our children! Some parents believe giving them more exposure to more friends, more stuff – technology (computer, internet, I-pad, cellphone, private television etc.), extra-curricular activities – sports, music, dance, self-defense or things like that will make yourself better parents! I’m sorry to tell you – none of that will make your children better or make you better parents! What will make them better is this: 1) Let them see you doing things right and have proper discipline and proper priorities in your life; 2) Train up your child in the way he should go; he will not depart from it even when he is old (Pr.22:6). Keep your children more with you than with others – let yourself be their primary teacher, primary bible teacher and pastor!

I’m still encouraged by the powerful statement Pastor D.L. Moody made 3 centuries ago, “The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I aim to be that man.” My prayer is that ‘let that be a person – an young boy, or a girl, or even an older brother or a sister from this congregation! Would you be able to say, ‘Lord, let me be that person – and pursue it with all your strength the Lord has laid inside of you!’ Parents, would you stop your confused priorities and focus on your children to bring them up in the way they should go so that he or she will be that person!

Jesus engaging in dialogue with the teachers of the Law

Read verses 43-48. After the Passover Feast they were returning home. Since there were several groups of people on the road away from Jerusalem to Nazareth or other towns coming out of the massive gathering in Jerusalem, it is possible that the parents thought Jesus would be in that crowd. As the night was closing in, and it was time to settle down somewhere, they began to look for their 12 year old son. When they realized that they could not locate him in the group, they began to get panic and walked back to the city; and another whole day searching in the city and in the Temple – after three days they finally find him – sitting comfortably among the teachers of the Scripture listening to them and asking them questions. What would you do as a parent if your 12 year son or daughter did that to you? Furious, angry, yelling! Kids, do you think you’ll do that to your parents – deserting them like that and causing all that confusion and hardship? Well, you might say, if Jesus did that, we can do that too – right? I’ll agree, only if that is in the church and that is to be lost in the discussion of the Word of God!

What was he doing there? Vs. 46 – listening to the teachers and asking them questions. I know, as a Christian you would want to believe that Jesus was teaching them. In fact, it says, he was listening and asking questions – I do not think this 12 year Jesus was dominating the teachers of the law as an all knowing teenager! Bible says, he was listening and asking questions like anyone who wants to learn. I want to remind you that being born as a human it meant that he needed to learn just like any of us - how to eat, drink, walk, talk, how to read and write and how to obey his parents and so on. We read in Phil. 2:6-7 “Who being in very nature of God, did not consider equality with God, something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” While he was still God – keeping his divinity, I believe what he left behind was his divine privileges, such as his omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence! There are several statements Jesus himself made to prove this point. Let me just point out one of them from Mk. 13:32, pertaining the end of this age “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the son, but only the Father.” But he was still 100% God, and without sin – a perfect human being! Besides, if he was all knowing (omniscient) from his birth and he did not need to learn anything at all, he wouldn’t be able to represent you and I who needed to learn everything! Another thing we learn from Jesus is, he was teachable – we must be humble and always teachable!

The point is, at the age of 12, Jesus was hungry to know more about the Scripture and how it could be related to people – it all started at home! In those days, the local synagogues were the schools too! Now, he got the great opportunity to hear more from the well known teachers of the Law coming together in the Temple. We read in verse 47 that “Everyone …..” Where did he receive this knowledge? One, he was taught well at home and in his synagogue! Two, his greatest teacher was the Holy Spirit. Along with what he learned from his parents and teachers in the synagogue, he was learning daily directly from the Father through the Holy Spirit! You and I also have this great teacher Holy Spirit to teach us all the truth. Jesus said to his disciples: “The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things – all truth! (Jn. 14:26)

Jesus being in His Father’s business

Read 47-52. The teachers who heard him were amazed at his understanding. But his parents were astonished at his lack of understanding! One was amazed; the other was astonished! They’ve a reason too! However, I must say, it was Joseph and Mary who were lacking understanding! They knew very well who this young boy they were raising. They knew what his interest was. They should have expected that he would find real fascination being in the Temple and probably he would get lost in one of those theological discourses! They should have been astonished if they found him in the basement of the Temple playing video games or something else the ordinary kids would do! Matter of fact, he was exactly where he should have been! Although his reaction to Mary sounds little harsh, it was a stark reminder to his parents of his true identity – “Didn’t you know…” Some translations read, ‘my Father’s house! I like King James version here that reads, “My Father’s business…” Unfortunately, even at that reminder, the Bible says, they did not have a clue what he was talking about. There is so much to study here – it defeats the thinking that Jesus was any more than an ordinary young boy growing up under the care and discipline of his parents!

After such a dramatic moment without any further incident, the Bible says, (51-52) He grew up wisdom and stature, and in favor of God and men. This also defeats the legend that Jesus disappeared from age 12 to 30 until he appears at the banks of River Jordan to get baptized by John. Although we do not have a detail description of what Jesus was doing from the time of his dedication – 40 days after his birth and until the age of 12 and from 12 until 30, Bible clearly states that he was growing up physically, emotionally and spiritually under the care and discipline of his parents. Lk. 2:40; 2:52.

Conclusion

As I’m going to close here, I’ve a question for you: Jesus made the very powerful and revealing statement to Mary in verse 49, “Didn’t you know that I had to be in my Father’s business?” However, we read in verse 51 that he went down with his parents and was obedient to them.” Does that mean, he gave up being in his Father’s business until he became 30? The answer, ‘no he didn’t! In fact, he was only revealing his purpose of life to his parents in front of all those around him at that time; and from there going with his parents, being obedient to them and learning more (growing up in wisdom) and doing whatever he was doing helping his parents, family or working as a carpenter all that was the business the Father has assigned to him – on in other words, he was in his Father’s business! I want to remind you this morning that wherever we are placed in this world and whatever stage in life you are in life, a child, student, adult, working, doing business or whatever we are doing in life we could be in our Father’s business! First, we need to identify who we are and the purpose of our life – to be in the Father’s business! Secondly, submit ourselves to the will and purpose of God in whatever position we are in.

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