

The Gospel According to Luke

ABOUT HIS BUSINESS

PART 4

The purpose of the Father

READ LUKE 2:49-50

INTRODUCTION

This passage of Scripture is one of the more famous passages due to its narrative of Jesus' childhood. There is not a lot written about Him when He was a young boy and so anything that is written is treated as very important. That is no different here as we see a 12 year old Jesus, separating from His parents and going to the Temple to learn and discuss the things of God. Many times throughout His life, Jesus talked about being "about His Father's business" and it is important that we understand what that means for us because Jesus is our perfect example of how we are to live our lives glorifying the Father.

To know what the "business" of the Father is, we must know what the Father says. (John 10:27-28) In these verses we see that the people who consider themselves to be children of God will know His voice and the implication is that they will follow His commands. Again, obeying Jesus and ultimately God is something that is mentioned numerous times throughout all of Scripture and it is something that is easy to put on the backburner of our faith in modern times because times are a little different than they were when the Bible was written. The times may be different but the commands are not.

We have Scripture so that we can know what the commands of the Father are. We have Jesus to see how we can obey those commands on a daily, practical level. We have these gifts so that we can glorify the Father through every action that we take and every word that we say. The thoughts in our heads are His, the words that we say are His and the things that we do are meant to glorify and honor Him above all else. To honor the Father was Jesus' ultimate goal even at a young age and He encouraged His parents to see how important that was. We can look at it and change our priorities based on glorifying and honoring Him.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God left out a lot of Jesus' childhood in Scripture? Do you think it is beneficial or difficult that we do not know more about His childhood? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to be about our Father's business? Where do we get our marching orders from? Why is it so important to know Scripture when talking about obeying God's commands?
3. Read John 10:27-28. Discuss what these verses have to do with being about God's business.
4. Why is it so easy to fall into the trap of assuming we don't need the Bible? How can we change our hearts and minds to seek through Scripture more every day? Who can help keep you accountable to that?
5. Why is Jesus our example? Why did God send His Son, not just to die on a cross for our sins, but also to show us how to live our lives? What does that say about our priorities and how we should restructure them?

WRAP UP

It is important to remember that Jesus was not being disobedient to His parents here. He was being obedient to His Father in Heaven which supersedes anything and anyone else. Notice that He was not doing it out of disrespect to His earthly parents though. He was honoring them and the Father by respecting them both. He also was not twisting Scripture to say or do something wrong. He was seeking knowledge about God and discussing that with other people to grow in knowledge and understanding.