

It's 10 A.D.

Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

Luke 2:39-52

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Nov 8, 2020

I. You need to be careful not to personalize that which isn't personal.

Luke 2:48 "And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "**Son, why have you treated us so?** Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress."

Remember - in every horizontal relational encounter, a vertical reality is being displayed.

4 Signs You're Taking Things Too Personally

A. Your awe quickly gives way to argument.

Luke 2:48 "...they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so?..."

B. Your focus on self clouds your view of God.

Luke 2:50 "And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them."

C. You value what's temporary more than what's eternal.

2 Cor. 4:17 "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison..."

D. You live as if what you see is all there really is.

2 Cor. 4:18 "...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

II. You need to submit to authorities, even when they're imperfect.

Luke 2:51 "And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them."

Even after 12-year-old Jesus corrected his parents, He remained submissive to them nonetheless. He submitted to His imperfect earthly parents because they were raised up by His perfect, heavenly Father.

John 19:11 “Jesus answered him, ‘You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above.’”

Rom. 13:1-2 “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”

III. You need to grow, because even Jesus grew!

Luke 2:40 “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.”

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

A. Jesus humbled Himself by being born in the likeness of mankind.

Phil. 2:5-8 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

B. Jesus was made perfect through suffering (Heb. 2:10).

Heb. 2:10 “For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

C. Jesus learned obedience through suffering (Heb. 5:8).

Heb. 5:8 “Although He was a son, he learned obedience through what He suffered.”

D. Jesus grew in favor with God through His continued obedience to the Father in living victoriously over temptation (Heb. 4:15).

Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group discussion:

- (1) When was the last time you took something more personally than you should have?
- (2) Review the “4 Signs You’re Taking Things Too Personally.” Which one(s) resonate with you the most?
- (3) Pastor Peter said “By and large, God calls Christians to be a submissive people.” In what way(s) do you find that to be a countercultural calling?
- (4) What authority has God raised up in your life that you find yourself reluctant or refusing to submit to? According to Rom. 13:2, what are you really doing?
- (5) How do you measure growth in your walk with the Lord? What are 1-2 specific areas in which you think growth is still needed?