

"Family Fire"
Christmas at CrossPoint
Luke 2:41-52
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Travis Edgerton

Series Overview

1. "Christmas at Crosspoint"
 - a. This Christmas season, we're going to celebrate the birth of our Savior through the experience of FAMILY
 - i. This week, the gift of our own immediate families
 - ii. Next week, the gift of the family of God ... the church
 - iii. Dec. 18, God's desire to grow His family with those who don't know Him yet.
 - iv. Christmas day, experience and adore the Father of our family who sent His only Son.

Luke 2:41-42

⁴¹ Every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² When He was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

1. These verses give us a peek into the spiritual condition of Jesus' family
 - a. All Jews were supposed to travel to Jerusalem in the spring of every year and celebrate the Passover (when God delivered them from Egypt).
 - b. Many Jews did this only once every several years because of the cost and time.
 - c. But Jesus' parents obeyed this command EVERY YEAR. Mary and Joseph were very serious about their commitment to God.
 - d. And when Jesus was coming of age, they made sure to instill the importance of God as first place in His life by taking Him along to worship.

*And here is where the story starts to get really interesting:

Luke 2:43-46

⁴³ After the Feast was over, while His parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

1. SCARY... Jerusalem was the biggest city in the whole country... population of up to 80k people... which for that day was huge...12 year old boy alone...

⁴⁴ Thinking He was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for Him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find Him, they

went back to Jerusalem to look for Him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

1. Traveled a day on foot in a caravan; got anywhere from 15-25 miles away.
 - a. Like leaving your child behind in San Francisco and traveling on foot all the way to Castro Valley.
 - b. They had to travel another whole day back, searched the whole next day and finally found Him on the third day.
 - i. Remember: no vehicle to search quickly, no Jerusalem police force, no Internet searches, no Amber Alerts
 - c. Finally, on the third day, they find Him.
 - i. Be honest, if your kid did this to you, when you finally found him, what would be the first words out of your mouth?
2. But here's the interesting part: where did they find Him?
 - a. Where do you think you'd find your 12-year-old boy if he had three days of freedom in the biggest city in the country?
 - i. Toy R Us? The movies? Candy store? No, they find Him at church.
3. This is such a testament to the driving passion, not only of Jesus' heart, but His parents. They raised a child Who knew that nothing must compete with His passion for God the Father.
 - a. Jesus is fully God, yes... He's also fully human.
 - b. later in verse 52 of this passage, Luke makes very clear that one of the very human things about Jesus was that He too, experienced the benefit of growing in wisdom and maturity through the discipleship of His parents.

47 Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers.

1. 12-year-old Jesus is not only found in the temple, but He's astounding the guys who are the Bible Ph.D's of that day.
 - a. Both His questions and His answers show a uniquely deep understanding and love for God.
 - b. Of all the places Jesus could have spent His three days of freedom. Of all the things He could have filled His time with, He chose to run after the things of God.
 - i. It's obvious that both because He is God and because His family had saturated Him with a thirst for God, Jesus is passionate above all things for His heavenly Father.

*Now here's where the story gets REALLY, REALLY interesting:

48 When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us like this? Your **father** and I have been anxiously searching for You."

49 “Why were you searching for Me?” He asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in **My Father’s** house?”

(lit.: “in the things of My Father” is often translated “about My Father’s business”)

1. Mary’s reaction is actually VERY controlled. Even so, she feels that Jesus has treated her and Joseph really poorly.
 - a. She says, Your father, Joseph, and I were worried sick.
2. Jesus’ reaction is “I’m not quite sure why you didn’t know I was here. Didn’t you know I’d be here...devoting my mind and heart to the things of God?”
 - a. Two things Jesus is implying:
 - i. Isn’t this what you taught Me was most important?
 - ii. Yes, Joseph is my dad, but God is first and foremost My Father.
3. It would be easy to read this on the surface as a smart-alec response. Most of us would not respond very well to this. But Jesus was not being a smart-alec, for two reasons.
 - a. First, Jesus is God. He never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21). This is one kid Who NEVER disrespected His parents.
 - b. Second, the context of the passage sets Jesus’ response as if He’s implying, “Mom, Dad, isn’t this what you taught Me to do? Isn’t this how you taught Me to respond to an opportunity to pursue God more?”

* And in v.51, we see one of the most profound parental responses in the whole Bible:

51 Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

1. Even though she was in a state of panic, even though His response wasn’t what she’d expected, even though Jesus had unintentionally put His mother through 3 days of torture, here’s her response:
 - a. “I treasure this!”
 - b. My son is passionately pursuing God the Father with all of His heart and I won’t begrudge Him that.
 - c. This fire of passion for God in my Son’s heart is something I will treasure all of my life.
 - i. Don’t forget, Luke wrote this story decades after Jesus’ death on the cross.
 - ii. It’s very likely that Mary, herself, recounted the birth of Jesus and this story in the temple directly to Luke, up to 30 years after Jesus was crucified.
 - iii. So, even after years and years, marked by the pain of losing her Son to crucifixion and then to His ascension to Heaven, this is one

- of the stories that Mary tells Luke. It's one of the prized jewels she has stowed away in her heart of her baby boy.
- d. Mary treasured this in her heart because there is NO BETTER gift that a parent can receive than to know that their family is passionate about God.
 - i. The priority of passion for God in Joseph and Mary's home supercedes their parental flinch reaction of biting Jesus' head off.
 - ii. Mary could have grounded Jesus for life but, instead, she understands the startling thirst for God in her Son and treasures the memory forever.

Application

1. Let's bring this home to us
 - a. Picture all of your decisions as a family: how you spend your time, your finances, your energy, your instruction, your free time, what you talk about ...
 - b. If all of this could be mixed together, what picture would it paint?
 - c. If you could analyze these things with math, and you added them all together and averaged the total, what would that average be?
 - d. What would it say is the most important priority to your family?
 - i. Would it be the pursuit of money?
 - ii. Would it be the best recreation?
 - iii. Would it be the best education your kids could receive?
 - iv. How about athletic achievement?
 - v. Would it be success in the business world?

2. Because here's reality: of the many reasons God invented this thing called the human family, there's one reason that stands far and above the rest.
 - a. We're not reptiles or amphibians... drop your baby on the beach and say "See ya later"
 - b. The human family, in its true design, is a unit. It stays together with tighter bonds than any one person could invent.
 - c. **And the most important calling that God gave to this gift, this masterpiece called family is this: to light a fire of passion, in each other, for JESUS.**
 - i. Can you truly say of your family that passion for Jesus is the central and most important priority?
 1. I think that most Christians would like to say yes.
 2. But our intentions don't always represent reality.
 3. What do your decisions and your money and your time and your energy and your conversation say?

3. Husbands were designed to light a fire for Jesus in their wives
 - a. Wives for their husbands
 - b. Dads and moms for their children,
 - c. Brothers and sisters for each other

- d. Children for your parents.
- 4. And not everyone has a spouse and kids. What about single, widowed or divorced people?
 - a. You were meant to ignite a fire of passion for Jesus in your roommate
 - b. In your colleagues at work
 - c. In your closest friends, the ones you would die for.
 - d. In your extended family.
- 5. Can you imagine what our country would be like if all Christ-followers weaved this passion for Jesus into every thread of the fabric of their homes and families
 - a. Can you imagine what our city would be like if JUST the families in THIS church lived in such a way
 - i. It would ABSOLUTELY be a game-changer for Modesto.

How?

1. This all starts with our own individual commitment to pursue Jesus passionately.
 - a. Are you a person of prayer?
 - b. Are you spending time in God's Word?
 - c. Do you worship Jesus other than the 30 minutes here on Sunday?
2. Are you living and serving in community with other believers?
 - a. Peer group or small group?
 - b. Are you serving in the church? KID COUNTRY: investing in other people's kids... because kids need non-parental grown-ups to point them to Jesus too
3. Are you living out your passion for Jesus by reaching out to those who don't know Him?
 - a. Does your spouse see you sacrificing to save the lost?
 - b. Do your kids see you adjusting your busy life and stretched pocket book to help those who are needy?
 - c. Does your roommate or co-worker see you laying down your life for the sake of others?

* In case you didn't catch it, here's what it boils down to: We ignite the fire of passion into our families and loved ones by devoted everything we are to three things:

WORSHIP LIKE JESUS + LIVE LIKE JESUS + RESCUE LIKE JESUS

1. This isn't just a catchy slogan that we talk about at church. This is Matthew 28:19-20: Go and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded
 - a. We become mature disciples by worshiping like Jesus did, by growing and serving in family communities like Jesus did and rescuing the lost like Jesus did.
 - b. Worship, Live, Rescue CANNOT be chained to the confines of Sunday morning.
 - i. It's got to be the core value of your home.

2. Again, I ask you to imagine what our city would be like, even if just the family units in THIS church took this seriously and lived it outside of Sunday

Those without family

1. I would be naïve to assume that every person in this building has something even remotely resembling a family
 - a. There are many lonely people who go in and out of their days with very little meaningful human contact.
 - b. There are people who are estranged from family or don't even know their family.
2. Here's what I have to say to you: We'll be your family. This church. These people.
 - a. We've got room in our hearts. We've got room at our dining room tables.
 - b. You don't have to be blood related to be family.
 - c. Wade is going to spend the whole sermon next week painting that picture for us: God's family, the church. So come back ...

PRAY

Instructions for Christmas Card

1. Before you go, there's something I want you to do.
 - a. I just talked about how we have room in our hearts for more people to be part of this family.
 - b. We have a very easy, but also very meaningful way for you to act on that.
2. We printed some really great Christmas cards that describe what we're doing at CrossPoint for the Christmas season.
 - a. All you have to do is grab a handful, write a personal note inside and drop it in the mail or on the porch, or hand-deliver it to someone who needs to be here.
 - b. There on tables out in the street... we have TONS of them, so don't be shy to take a stack.
3. And because we take this "bringing others into our family" thing so seriously, there's a phase two of what we'll be doing to invite people into our church home this month but you have to come back next week to find out what that is.
 - a. But I will tell you, it's taking it up a notch from this week and I'm excited.
 - b. See you next week!