

IGNITE:

Sharing Our Hearts When We Can't Seem to Find Jesus

Luke 2:41-52

- i. My Life as a child...
- ii. My life as a parent with young children...
- iii. The life of Jesus as a child...
- iv. Today it is different, parents tend to drop off and pick up their children.

HOW TO SHARE OUR HEARTS WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND JESUS...

2 Questions, two responses and a way forward...

- I. HOW DO WE SHARE OUR HEARTS WHEN THEY AREN'T IN SYNC?
 - a. First, we listen and ask good questions, like Jesus.
 - b. The result of this inviting strategy was amazement and astonishment.
 - c. Be aware of your own anxiety and identify the real source of the anxiety.
 - d. Jesus non-anxiously de-escalates his parent's anxiety.
 - e. The result went from right verses wrong and prove it or defend it to everyone is loved here.
 - f. Mary moved from corrective curiosity to genuine curiosity (Thanks Jer Swigart) and stored them in her heart, not a baby book.
 - g. Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and people.

- II. HOW DO WE FIND THE JESUS YOU THOUGHT YOU'D LOST? (Thanks Tom Wright)
 - a. After three day of high parental anxiety and internal conflict he was found in the Temple.
 - b. Remember Jesus "had to be in the Temple." It was necessary the text writes. Today we find Jesus in the gospel writings, reading his words and observing his works in contrast to ingrown nationalism for the very first time.
 - c. Zoom out with me to Luke 24:13-35 and the road to Emmaus. Two more people looking for Jesus for the past three days. They thought that they had lost Jesus too.
 - d. Jesus unrecognizable, explained that it "was necessary to be about his father's work."
 - e. Then suddenly, they recognized Jesus!

- f. The Scriptures were opened up in a new and fresh way from the beginning in such a way that their eyes were opened.
- g. This was Genuine curiosity at work among the beloved without having to win at all costs or prove it to be correct.

Let's Recapitulate:

Regardless of tensions in family life, work life, fearing that we cannot find Jesus in the ways we have always found him because of polarized politics. Perhaps we ought to try and set aside defend it and prove-it tactics and remember that we are all beloved by God. Perhaps we ought to risk setting aside corrective curiosity that seeks to convert people to our position by entering into genuine curiosity that asks good questions of one another around a safe table and a meal.

Questions like:

- Tell me more about that?
- When and why did this become important to you? Tell me the story around that?
- Why is this such an important value to you?
- How does that value play out in this situation?

Can we put all of this alongside a Jesus who found it necessary to be about his father's business by dying on a cross to engage with the pain and suffering of the wounded, the downtrodden, the sick, the lonely, the misplaced, the forgotten and the marginalized?

Perhaps through this long journey of discipleship discovery we may come to see a deeper reason for the church to be on mission in the world with fresh eyes.

Perhaps we may close the gap between differences and see have more in common than we originally thought.

Perhaps. Just Perhaps.