

Losing Jesus

Luke 2:40-52

We don't know much about Jesus' growing up years. The Gospel authors are largely silent about this period of Jesus' life except for Luke who shares one story of Jesus when he was twelve. Why? What is so important from this story that Luke wants his audience (and God wants us) to know? As we dig in, we not only find some critically important truths about Jesus, we come face to face with the human propensity to misunderstand and "lose" Jesus.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree, consider/contemplate)

"When we first become Christians we feel that we have finally come to "know" God, and so we have. But as we progress in faith we go through times when we are less and less certain that we really know Him at all, and yet more certain than ever that He knows us..." Mike Mason

"Only if God can say things that make you struggle will you know that you have met a real God and not a figment of your imagination." Tim Keller

"Faith is holding onto Jesus for dear life, even as he strips us of our illusions and projections of who we think he is..." Pete Scazzero

"Honest doubt wants answers. Dishonest doubt just wants exits. God gives us what we want." (summary of idea on doubt from A.J. Swoboda)

Working It Out

1. Read Luke 2:40-52. As you best you can, put yourself in Mary and Joseph's shoes. Describe the different emotions you think you would be feeling?
2. Read slowly Jesus' response to Mary in v. 49. What do you notice? What words seem to be weighty or important?
3. In what ways do you personally (or, see people in general) tend to try and co-opt Jesus from the "Father's business" and give him a manmade agenda? Be specific.
4. Matt talked about the story at the end of Luke's Gospel and how once again we see people "losing" Jesus. When you think about the story of these two men on the road to Emmaus, why did they not recognize Jesus?

Have there been times in your life where you have not recognized Jesus?

5. Matt talked about the process we all go through as disciples of Jesus (though it looks different for different people and at different times) where we "lose" Jesus (realize He's not who we thought in some specific way), seek after Jesus, find Jesus, and have to re-think Jesus. Is there a time in your life where you felt like you lost Jesus?
6. Is there room in your mind and heart for Jesus to surprise, confuse, frustrate, and challenge you?

7. Read the Pete Scazzero quote above. Do you sense that there are any “illusions” or “projections” of Jesus in your heart that need to be stripped away right now?

Prayer Points

- Pray for us as a church, that through this series on the book of Luke we would, individually and corporately, see the unvarnished Jesus... and be changed!
 - Pray for people you know right now who are in the midst of deconstructing their faith. Pray that they would come to encounter Jesus in a personal and profound way.
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