

Luke
See Jesus
His Affirmation Leads to Our Transformation
Luke 3:15-22

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 22, 2020

I. God's Word Can Stir Up Questions and Feed Your Sense of Expectation

Luke 3:15 “As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ.”

While we know far more today than they did, we still live with expectation and have a lot of questions.

They were reading their Old Testament Scriptures trying to predict when Jesus would come the first time. Now we read books like Revelation and 2 Thessalonians that causes us to live in a state of expectation about His second coming, but with questions about when, where, and how.

II. God's Word Can Answer the Biggest Question about Our Biggest Problem

Our biggest problem is our sin problem that separates us from a holy God. The answer to that problem is found in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

At the baptism of Jesus, God the Father is affirming that Jesus is His beloved Son who is able to perfectly please the Father in a way that we could never do.

Luke 3:22 “And the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.’”

III. Jesus Came to Change Who You Are and How You Live Now in This Life

What does it look like to no longer be an enemy of God but to have a Father-child relationship with Him?

A. You'll Have a New Sense of Worth and Identity in Your Life

One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit is to renew our thinking and give us constant assurance of our new identity now as a son or daughter.

Romans 8:15-17 “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...”

Galatians 4:4-7 “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

To appreciate sonship like we should, we have to understand what sonship meant in that ancient time. The son got everything the father had. He didn't have to earn or deserve it; it was his by virtue of being the son.

In a day when women did not inherit the wealth, status, or estate of the father, Paul says "you are all sons of God!"

Galatians 3:26-28 "For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

If you're not solid on who you are in Christ now and settled in His love for you, you'll spend a lifetime looking for it somewhere else and trying to find it in somebody else. You'll stay frustrated as the relationships you care about most keep crumbling under the weight of your identity expectations.

Human relationships were never designed to bear the weight of your identity expectations or need for love and approval. That has to come from your relationship with Jesus Christ who can easily bear the weight of your identity expectations as His Spirit speaks love, acceptance, peace, delight, and approval to your heart.

"Sin is building your identity on anything but God."

~ Soren Kierkegaard, *Sickness Unto Death*

If you've found yourself in a constant state of panic and meltdown, you should consider what you've built your world around and what you've adopted as your main source of identity.

"One of the signs that an object is functioning as an idol is that fear becomes one of the chief characteristics of life. When we center our lives on the idol, we become dependent on it. If our counterfeit god is threatened in any way, our response is complete panic. We do not say, 'What a shame, how difficult,' but rather 'This is the end! There's no hope!' This may be a reason why so many people now respond to U.S. political trends in such an extreme way... They have put the kind of hope in their political leaders and policies that once was reserved for God and the work of the gospel. When their political leaders are out of power, they experience a death...and a poisonous environment is created."

~ Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

B. You'll Have Unlimited Access to God as Your Father

The word "Abba" Paul chose to use was a word for "Papa" that children would use when they were reaching out for their daddy. This word is tender, personal, and intimate. It conveys the childlike confidence and audacity of having no hesitation but coming to this person freely asking for what you want.

Luke 11:8-12 "...because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"