

Luke 2:48-50 (ESV) 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." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. *Mary And Joseph were astonished (definition for astonished: confused and overwhelmed). They were astonished by what was going on - by Jesus' actions and even more by his words.*

When was the last time the words of Jesus astonished (confused and overwhelmed) you?

Let me give you some context to what I mean by "astonished" (confused and overwhelmed) like Mary and Joseph were.

I'm not talking how I feel about A. Hamilton or W. Churchill. I didn't know their brilliance till others told me to read their writings.

I was surprised, a little confused and amazed by vol & genius. But this is not what is going on in this passage. Not the meaning here.

Wednesday, May 16th – many of you were astonished at my announcement (confused and overwhelmed). This is the meaning here.

I talked to a good friend who got offered a job that he is qualified and ready for – but the way things he works in his career. It usually doesn't get offered to a guy like him. He was astonished – really confused & overwhelmed. Praying what to do. This is our story here.

When was the last time the words of Jesus astonished (confused and overwhelmed) you?

We are going to answer this one question today in two ways ...

01. Why did the words of Jesus astonish (confuse and overwhelm) his parents? *This will help us see ...*

02. Why do we get astonished (confuse and overwhelm) by the words of Jesus and why is this good for our soul?

01. Why did the words of Jesus astonish (confuse and overwhelm) his parents.

48 ... 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." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me?"

1- Mary's and Joseph's perspective: Back story

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances. *(Passover feast 7 days. 3-4 day trip to Nazareth. Thought he was with cousins. Males and females would often travel in groups. Whole towns came together, so he could have been playing with friends. 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, (3 days – imagine. I traveling home, I traveling back, I looking. I don't think they found him in the temple because they were looking there. I think they went there for help. Not going to the Romans – so go to the Temple.)*

sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. *(They find him and are astonished! Confused, overwhelmed and her question is "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.")*

Mary didn't ask a where question. She just expressed frustration, great fear, panic, & pain. Things you feel when you lose a child. Lost Will at Chicago Children's Mus. @ Navy Pier. Panic, fear, run – Jack Bauer the exits and every person with a child. This is where they are. You there parents? Everyone else – imagine losing \$10,000 deposit for work!?

2- Jesus' perspective: *My dad lost me at 6 at a county fair. I was terrified. Might as well been in Russia. But Jesus- Remember, Mary didn't ask "WHERE" have you been? It was a WHY question. Why did you do this to us?*

Jesus' response: 49 "Why were you looking for me? Why? Take this word and just let it sit for a moment. What a crazy normal almost teenager response. Why? (Not whiney – whyyy? Not an almost teenager disrespectful– WHY?)

It was more of a genuine stunned – "for real – why were you looking for me?" Why do I think so ... Let's look.

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Culturally, there were 4 ways you could address your father in this culture. They are similar to ours.

1] Most formal: "sir". 2] "father". 3] "Dad or pops". 4) Most childlike & intimate: "daddy" (abba). The words Jesus uses here – "my father", used in this way is closest to our dad or pops. It was not daddy – he will. But here- dad. HE says **my dad**. Why-

He is saying – Joseph you're not my dad. You raised me and I will respect you. (vs 51: God the Son submits.) Not dad.

He is saying – God the Father is MY Dad. (Not our – my. This phrase my dad speaks of a close personal relationship and is different than ours as sons and daughters through adoption by faith in Jesus. He is saying – My dad, I'm the Son.

He is saying – I am God the Son. / One of the 1st reasons Jesus says WHY is this ...

1- I am The Son of God. *The Messiah, Holy, God in the flesh – God the Son. Do you not remember who I am?*

The 2nd reason Jesus says why ... / 49 ... Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 10

(Lit.- Must be in the things of my father.) Tough translation since no house in this. Jesus is saying My Father has a mission to redeem this world and I must be in the things of this redemption plan. Where did that happen in this Jewish culture – the temple. That’s a tough translation for us because it sounds like he is saying I must be in church. Not at all. It is best for us to hear him saying: **Did you not know that I must be in and about the things of my Father?** Or

2- I am on my Father's mission.

Let's put these 2 things together. **I am God the Son. I am on my Father's mission.** In Jesus' WHY, he is saying:

- **You know who I am – don't you?**

- * Mom, remember what the **angel spoke** to you, **Luke 1:32-33, 45 (ESV) 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. ... 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 35 the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**
- * Joseph, this **angel spoke** to you as well. **Matthew 1:21 (ESV) ... for he will save his people from their sins.**
- * Remember, **Elizabeth's visit** – you told me how John jumped in her womb and how the Spirit showed her you were pregnant with the LORD, God, Messiah – me.
- * Remember, **the song you sang** – about God – the Father and Son who saves His people. That was about me.
- * Remember, the **story you told me of the shepherds** who came and told you about the angels who came to them and said the Son of God is in the manger in that city. And they came to worship me.
- * Remember, **Simeon and Anna**. You told me about how they prophesied after seeing me in the Temple as I was presented before my Father. They said I was His son, God who had come to save.
- * Remember, the story of the wise man you told me about that brought the gifts and how they worshiped me. **You know who I am don't you - I am God – the Son!**

- **You know what I came for – don't you? I'm on my Father's mission - to save, to rescue?** Why were you worried about me and looking for me? My Father is not going to let anything happen to me – till it is time. And, this isn't the time. Didn't you know this is what I must be about – *and it starts here?*

Do you hear the questions behind His WHY? These are not whiney or disrespectful words. But, they are powerful!
For they do astonish – confuse and overwhelm - Mary and Joseph.

50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. Why?

Jesus' words exposed their disbelief - in who Jesus was.

Jesus' words laid bare their hearts before God - as broken.

- 1) They had heard God's words about Jesus from angels, people, and the Spirit – but they did not believe.
- 2) Because of this, when Jesus said, I'm God and I must be in the things of my dad – they didn't understand.
- 3) Even more than unveiling their disbelief – the words of Jesus *laid open their hearts before God & each other.*

But this is not a bad thing. Not really. Here is one of the main truths from this whole passage:

The words of Jesus – SHOULD astonish (confuse & overwhelm) us – and this is good for our soul.

Astonished I/night at son Cade's HS graduation. *Because he goes to one of the larger HS in MO, I expected it to be large, long, boring, & an emotional night because this was son's grad and my last son at that. It was large but everything else was diff than I thought. It was not too long or boring, but what was most astonishing was I was most overwhelmed by another parent's son. Yes it was good, exciting, & overwhelming to see Cade graduate. **Most overwhelming:** 4 yr old essay of a 9th gr boy who died of cancer who would have grad last night. His essay was read by the Princ. and it was emot. overwhelming. I don't like being overwhelmed emot unless my team wins or someone gives me a new car. Tears of joy -good. These were tears of – pain. But – I should have been overwhelmed at this - lost young life, parents without a son, kids w/out a friend, not the way it is suppose to be. And– it was good. Not just to be thankful for my son. God was exalted – Purp., Sovereign, Comforter. Good to be aston.*

02. Why do we get astonished (confused & overwhelmed) by the words of Jesus and why is this good for our soul?

1) The words of Jesus often confuse because they expose there is much we don't believe that is truth.

- * The words of Jesus (The Word) are true and we have many ¼, ½, and whole lies we believe about us and about God. *Every time we hear God's word – we should have lies (half or whole they are lies) and things we don't understand confronted and this will bring confusion. This is good!*

Humanity of Jesus and the Deity of Jesus – confuse us – just like it did Mary and Joseph.

We struggle with a 12 yr old being God. God being 12 is nuts. What was he like at 2, 4, 6 growing into this?

When we see Jesus lighting up like the Sun on a mountain – he is God. 12 year old – wow!

We struggle with what a 12 yr old did for three days – food, lodging, safety. We struggle seeing him as God.

We think, if that boy would have told us - I'm God. We would think - he is crazy. This is crazy - God a boy.

We struggle with His deity because his ways are different than ours. Mary and Joseph didn't get it and we often don't get his ways and why he says what he says. Truth - If we took the pages in the bible we don't get or like ½ are bible would be on the ground in shreds.

2) The words of Jesus often overwhelm because they uncover us – they uncover me and my broken heart.

*When his words press into us – we are always left feeling uneasy at the way his words lay us bare – naked before others and Him. (Joseph had to have thought – oh wow, he just outed me. I'm not his dad - & I know his calling, but I don't believe. Mary thought: I've seen and heard so much – but when he starts acting like God – I don't believe. Why?) **What about you – we hear and read and see so much – but do his words ever just lay you bare and expose your unbelief, your sin, your delight in other things but him.***

***Responding slowly to God's call to go when he had revealed it not only thru prayer and His Spirit in me – but in his word.** Ps 71:17-18 (ESV) 17 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. 18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. *These words of God fully exposed God's will – for I knew it when I first read this – this was God affirming what he was already saying. Some of these exact phrases were in my vocabulary and hidden conversations with God. But they not only exposed God's will – they exposed or laid bare my heart. I saw my morally acceptable slowness for what it was – sin and even me for what I was a sinner in desperate need of Jesus – Savior.**

Jesus' words overwhelm at times – even confuse when they lay us bare as a sinner in need of a savior.

But His words also overwhelm when they press in and remind us of who we are in Christ when we don't believe we are completely loved and accepted even in the midst of doubts and sin. Notice what Jesus doesn't say and even – what He does in regards to his parents and their unbelief? How does this impact on Mary?

*51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. *He doesn't leave her or imply she is unlovely because of her doubts.**

Mary would struggle for years over Jesus and who He was and what he came to do – like we all do.

Mark 3:20 – Family heard about the crowds he was gathering – they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Sometimes the words of Jesus overwhelm because they are saying – you are forgiven – when you know you should not be forgiven. They are saying you are loved, when you feel and act so unlovely and unloveable. They are saying - you are accepted – even when you feel unacceptable. WHY?

***God is gracious** – that is in Jesus he gives perfect justice to all. He does not hold judgment to the evil oppressor or hateful racist or abuser of the weak. But he also does not withhold justice from the liar, the self-righteous who try to make themselves right before God with our prideful good deeds. And he does not withhold justice from those who justify their sin like it is not that big a deal because I was being mostly obedient.*

Hebrews 4:12-13 (ESV) 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

*13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. **But God – hear this and don't miss this – But God in Jesus also gives perfect mercy to all who trust their soul to Jesus. How - Because he poured out all His Justice on Jesus. That was the redemption plan – the mission of the Father that Jesus was on. He came to be Savior as the angel said – and he saves or rescues by taking our justice – our justice that the word of God says - lays us bare every time we get in front of it. The Word also says THE WORD – took on flesh (Jesus – who is the living Words of God) took on flesh and took our place to give us his perfect mercy. So now ...***

***God doesn't judge me** (because he judged Jesus). Rather, His word calls me to repent – not to avoid justice, but so I can run to mercy and healing. See the redemption plan of God was not just about forgiving – it is about healing and transforming our broken heart and soul into the very perfect image of Jesus.*

When we engage the words of Jesus – He will astonish us.

Confused and overwhelmed by the word is not bad. This leads to repentance and heart transformation in us.

Close

1) If we are not being astonished by the words of Jesus – maybe like Mary we have grown numb to God in our midst. We have forgotten these are God's words. He is living and in our midst with his very words. These have become old stories – *not the living words of God.* **Ask God to awaken you to the WORD - to His words - NOW!**

2) If Words of Jesus have astonished you – repent.

- *If you have never repented for your sin. Trust your soul to Jesus – HE will save – NOW! (pray)*
- *If you have trusted your soul to Jesus but you have been astonished by His words today – repent now!*
This is the life God has called us to. As his adopted sons and daughters we don't repent to stay saved or get resaved or rescued again. No. We repent – not to avoid justice (*Jesus took it all*). Rather, we repent to run to mercy and healing. It is here – available now. Come repent! (*pray*)

BLESSING

1 Peter 1:23-25 (NLT) 23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. 24 As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. 25 But the word of the Lord remains forever."
May you walk in this power God's spoken blessing over you and may you be astonished over and over again by His living word to you – which is our life – our eternal life. Go in this blessing.