

Coming Home, Part 5, A Hard Place to be Yourself

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Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA – Being who God created you to be.

scripture focus - Luke 4:16-21 NLT "When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet **was handed to him**. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." **He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"**

From the moment Jesus was born, fully God, fully human, coming home - coming to our home, was difficult! Making His home among us as the Apostle John tells us in John 1:14, would explain everything we needed to know about God and even about who we are. Jesus coming home to this dark planet would mean living on mission! **If you have ever left your hometown or home church and come back after a period time, it may be hard for people to see you as more than a baby, a teen, or a youth. You're different from when you left and coming back home can be very difficult. Jesus had a similar story. After Jesus was born, He left his home in Nazareth to be on mission for God. When he returned home, it was a little awkward. Then...Jesus said something so unusual it triggered his own community to decide to mob him. What did Jesus say and why did it bring such a response?**

Are you happy being you?

We discovered that Jesus was:

- **Born into a family with a sordid past, with some shady grandparents.**
- **Born into controversy - a supernatural birth story with his mother and with a foster dad raising him.**
- **Born into chaos and uncertainty with his parents traveling while Mary was in her last weeks of pregnancy and not finding the best of accommodations.**

- Born where the infinite became finite.
- So normal, that it confused and frustrated the very community He grew up in!

From foster to adopt. From early recognition as the Messiah at eight days old by Simeon and Anna. **Being visited by Magi, Kings from the East, to fleeing for their lives to Egypt. A refugee, to the son of a carpenter back in Nazareth.** From a 12-year-old **before** his Bar Mitzvah, to mixing it up with religious men in the temple.

Jesus at twelve.

According to Chabad.org when a boy turns 13, they are **considered to have reached the "age of maturity,"** a time when they have **developed enough understanding to be responsible for their actions.** Jesus was a tad too young to be fully accepted according to temple rules. [John Piper](#) says, **"The 12th year was the final year of preparation for a lad before he entered full participation in the religious life of the synagogue. Up until that time his parents, especially his father, were teaching him the commandments of the law, but at the end of the 12th year the child goes through a ceremony by which he formally takes on the yoke of the law and becomes a bar mitzvah or "son of the commandment."**

Jesus sat with the religious theologians listening, asking questions, and giving answers! "Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, **sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions.** All who heard him were amazed at his understanding **and his answers."**

Luke 2:46-47 NLT <https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.2.46-47.NLT>

Q: Were you confident and outspoken at twelve years old or shy and quiet?

Jesus had an interesting experience when he was disciplined by his mother, Mary.

Luke records the incident. "His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, **"why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."** "But why did you need to search?" he asked. **"Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"** But they didn't understand what he meant. Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people." **Luke 2:48-52** NLT <https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.2.48-52.NLT>

Luke's use of the pronoun, from "Your father," speaking of Joseph and Jesus' use of "My father," speaking of God is wild!

First of all, did you notice that it was Mary, not Joseph who asked the question, "why have you done this to us?"

Jesus, returning to his hometown as an adult.

There is another scene where Jesus returns to his hometown, Nazareth. It is here that He reveals who is really is. The religious leaders and the elders in the community could not believe what they were hearing.

Q: Have you returned to your hometown or family and been treated like a kid?

Luke 4:16-21 NLT "When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet **was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." **He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"****

Chosen Clip?



Q: What did you think about Jesus' facial expression when he said those words?

They not only rejected what he said, they tried to kill Jesus, by pushing him off one the cliffs in Nazareth.

When you begin to really break from your past, you may rattle some of your friends and family members. When you begin to grow and God changes you

and directing your thoughts, plans and future, not everyone will just jump on board with it.

For **some of you God has a calling on your life**, to be a **missionary or step into full time ministry, maybe even as a pastor**. That can be exciting and terrifying at the same time.

Some, **who have been believers for years may hear God calling you to something new and different than what you expected**. This can happen at any age; it is not just for the young.

We have several folks who grew up in this church, ran the halls, skated in the parking lot. But you're no longer a kid, or a youth - you're an adult seeking God's will for your life.

Jesus came to his own and his own struggled with knowing too much about who he was as a child or youth, the son of the local carpenter, Joseph. God had a purpose and mission for Jesus and Jesus was set on fulfilling it. Thank God he did!

What does 2024 look like for you? What do you want to accomplish? What do you sense that God is going to do?

If you are here and saying, "I don't know!" That's alright! No pressure. But for those who would like us to pray over them and give opportunity for God to lead and direct something new this year, come on forward and we will pray with you.

NOTES

Scriptures

Luke 2:42-45 NLT <https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.2.42-45.NLT>

"When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there.

Luke 2:46-47 NLT <https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.2.46-47.NLT>

"Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers."

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Luke 4:16-21 NLT <https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.4.16-21.NLT>

"When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Questions

- Q: Were you confident and outspoken at twelve years old or shy and quiet?
- Q: Have you returned to your hometown or family and been treated like a kid?
- Q: What are your thoughts of Jesus leading a completely normal childhood?
- Q: What about a normal young adulthood?
- Q: What did you think about Jesus' facial expression when he said those words?

Diving Deeper into God's Word

Gill's Exposition of the Bible

Luke 4:16

And he came to Nazareth,.... After some length of time, when he had gone through all Galilee, and had acquired great credit and reputation by his ministry and miracles; **he came to the place, where he had been brought up: where he was conceived, though not born; and where he had his education, and wrought at a trade, and was well known to the inhabitants; and therefore it was proper that he should first exercise his ministry, and obtain a character in other places, which would prepare him a reception among his townsmen, who otherwise, in all likelihood, would have treated him at once with neglect and contempt: and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day.** This was either his custom from his youth, when he dwelt at Nazareth, while a private person, and before he was engaged in public service, whither he had used to repair as an inhabitant of the city, and a member of the congregation, to attend synagogue worship, as he now did; or it refers to his custom, since he became a public preacher, who at Capernaum, or any other city of Galilee, where there was a synagogue, used to frequent it, whether on sabbath days, or any other, and so he did here.

Barnes notes on the Bible

Luke 4:16

Stood up for to read - The books of Moses were so divided that they could be read through in the synagogues once in a year. To these were added portions out of the prophets, so that

no small part of them was read also once a year. It is not known whether our Saviour read the lesson which was the regular one for that day, though it might seem "probable" that he would not depart from the usual custom. Yet, as the eyes of all were fixed on him; as he deliberately looked out a place; and as the people were evidently surprised at what he did, it seems to be intimated that he selected a lesson which was "not" the regular one for that day. The same ceremonies in regard to conducting public worship which are here described are observed at Jerusalem by the Jews at the present time.

Luke 4:22

All bare him witness - **All were witnesses of the power and truth of what he said. Their reason and conscience approved of it, and they were constrained to admit the force and propriety of it, and on this account they wondered.**

They wondered - They were struck with the truth and force of his words; and especially when they remembered that he was a native of their own place, and that they had been long acquainted with him, and that he should "now" claim to be the Messiah, and give so much evidence that he "was" the Christ.

The gracious words - The words of grace or favor; the kind, affectionate, and tender exposition of the words, and explanation of the design of his coming, and the nature of the plan of redemption. It was so different from the harsh and unfeeling mode of the Pharisees; so different from all their expectations respecting the Messiah, who they supposed to be a prince and a bloody conqueror, that they were filled with astonishment and awe.

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

Luke 4:21 This day is this scripture fulfilled.—It is obvious that we have here only the opening, words of the sermon preached on the text from Isaiah. There must have been more than this, remembered too vaguely for record, to explain the admiration of which the next clause speaks. **But this was what startled them: He had left them as the son of the carpenter—mother, brethren, sisters were still among them—and now He came back claiming to be the Christ**, and to make words that had seemed to speak of a far-off glorious dream, as a living and present reality.

Benson Commentary

Luke 4:23-24

You will soon ask, why my love does not begin at home? why I do not work miracles here, rather than at Capernaum? **It is because of your unbelief. Nor is it any new thing for a messenger of God to be despised in his own country. So were both Elijah and Elisha, and thereby driven to work miracles among heathen, rather than in Israel.** And he said, Verily, no prophet is accepted in his own country — That is, **in his own neighbourhood. It generally holds, that a teacher sent from God is not so acceptable to his neighbours as he is to strangers.** The meanness of his family, or lowness of his circumstances, brings his office into contempt: nor can they suffer that he, who was before equal with or below themselves, should now bear a superior character.

Internet Links

[Timeline of Jesus' Life](#) – Birth to death.