

## **THE CHOSEN part 5 “TO FOLLOW”**

TODAY: CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

**Luke 2:7** And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

**Luke 2:21-22** On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. <sup>22</sup> **When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.**

-BABY DEDICATIONS

-They presented a sacrifice of 2 pigeons to fulfill the law from Leviticus 12:8

**Luke 2:39-40** When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> **And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.**

-THAT’S ALL THAT IS WRITTEN FOR 12 YEARS!

12 years from verse 40-41

**Luke 2:40-52** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. <sup>41</sup> **Every year** Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> **When he was twelve years old,** they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

Let's fill in some gaps.....

-3 pilgrimage feasts/festivals: Passover, Pentecost & Tabernacles  
-Huge family event! The whole family traveled together

-Jesus was 12, so he had gone every year since he was born  
-meant Jesus was pretty familiar with this!

**Luke 2:43-46** After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.<sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

OK, hold up.....12 years of rising this boy  
-walking, potty training, school

-And all that is recorded in history is that you LOST HIM!!!  
-FOR 3 DAYS!!!!

**Luke 2:47-50** Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.<sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"<sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

It is super easy to forget the master plan!

Interesting timing: Jesus was 12 (the age of manhood in Jewish culture)

-Bar Mizpah is age 12 or 13

-BUT: Jesus knew it wasn't his time.

KEY: Before anyone can LEAD.....they have to learn to FOLLOW

**Luke 2:51-52** Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.<sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Jesus..... Please don't do that again!

-I feel like that has been my parenting journey!

SOMETHING KICKS IN AND YOU JUST FIGURE IT OUT!

JESUS SAID: If not now.....when?

Last week: Chosen "TO CHANGE COURSE"

**Matthew 4:18-20** And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

-Peter: **Follow me** and I will make you a fisher of men!

-He didn't know what that meant.....but knew his heart was stirred!

-He was compelled to FOLLOW JESUS!

-We see in this series some of the struggles in Peter's life!

-His encounter with Jesus activates his faith!

-NOW HE IS SAYING YES!

**ONE ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING!**

Peter replied by referencing an OT story of Elijah calling Elisha!

**1 Kings 19:19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.**

-Cloak represented the prophetic mantle

-Elisha knew the incredible honor he was being called to

**1 Kings 19:20-21 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup> So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.**

-ELISHA KNEW WHAT THE CLOAK REPRESENTED!

-Elijah had defeated the prophets of Baal & Asherah

-Now he is hiding in depression and wanting to give up!

-God had told him to pass on the mantle to Elisha.

-ELISHA WAS CHOSEN BY GOD!!!

-God is always working and stirring in PREPARATION for HIS plan!

**Huge Difference between Spiritual MANIPULATION**

**..... and Spiritual CONFIRMATION!**

**I BELIEVE ELISHA KNEW THIS WAS COMING AND WAS WAITING!**

NOTE: a prophetic word CONFIRMS what the Holy Spirit has been saying

**-I am convinced Elisha knew 100% what God had been speaking to him**

-And Elisha knew what would hold him back!

**-HE BURNT THE PLOW!**

WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK:

-A relationship?

-Financial security?

-Insecurity and fear?

ALL GOD IS ASKING OF YOU IS TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

What is your step of faith? (when has it ever been easy)

Is there a plow you are needing to burn? (safety plan)

Are you leading or are you following? (need to follow before you can ever lead)