

Jesus in Youth: Well-Rounded

I want to use our time tonight addressing specifically our young people... our young men and women in middle school, high school, college, young singles and newly married... (The implications of our study will be for all, and may actually put more emphasis at times upon parents, grandparents, guardians of our youth), but I begin for a question for the youth:

-- Are you a "well-rounded person." You know, they say "well-rounded" kids make for "well-rounded" adults, so, how is that going? That phrase usually depicts someone who has a nicely balanced personality, life... the ability to be handle many situations and do a variety of things... as opposed to having much of one thing and very little of several others. Are you... balanced?

-- *And, more importantly, how is that defined... Do we learn what it means to be a balanced person from our school friends? Magazine articles? Professional actors and athletes? If those are our standards, then we may be "all outta shape." For such are riddled with sexual promiscuity, profanity, drug and alcohol abuse, leading to ruined families and untimely deaths... too much sin!*

--Parents, is this balanced youth idea important to you? I would think so. We want them to be able to handle a variety of situations and eminent changes of life... By what standard do you measure your success as a parent in preparing them for this world?

Well, we could examine a nice variety of Bible characters who served God in their youth and can show us what principles we need for life: Joseph, David, Josiah, Jeremiah, David, S,M,A ...

But tonight, I want to go straight to the top of the list: Jesus in Youth: Well-Balanced Life

There is not much said about Jesus as a young person, but what is said is critical to our development

Luke 2:52 – We'll look at the event preceding this passage in a moment, but in terms of our introduction, let's see what balanced development includes:

--Development: PHYSICAL / MENTAL / SOCIAL / SPIRITUAL

I think it is important to note that his profitable development was not merely spiritual... He would later make that the most important part of who we are: "Seek Ye First..." But we are not taught to lock our kids in a closet and just feed them Bible verses under the door once per day.

It was also important for His body to be nourished and grow; for His mind to learn things and learn how to learn; for His ability to have profitable relationships with others to mature; as well.

However, in Christ's family... SPIRITUAL growth received at least equal portion of the conversation!

-- *Young people, how are you developing? Are any of these areas getting more emphasis to the neglect of others? Parents, how would you rank importance of development... and which are given less time and emphasis, kind of accepted that it can lack and they still grow properly?*

I challenge families to consider this tonight:

--- PHYSICALLY --- we cook, buy and feed our kids... kids eat daily. We play ball practice, run, lift weights, get exercise to become physically capable of doing what we enjoy.

--- MENTALLY --- homework! Parents punish for failing to do homework... kids, as they get older, focus on their GPA and the college they want to attend... or at a new job, how to do it well

---SOCIALLY --- Parents drive the globe taking kids to social events, parties, school functions, extra curricular everything... we want them to be social butterflies, to be liked and good with others

And while Jesus parents certainly would have done some of those things... does what we know about Jesus suggest something else was more important?

---SPIRITUAL --- What about reading our Bibles, praying as a family, doing Bible lessons, attending every possible chance to worship and grow, setting good examples, making godly choices --- are those things being neglected for the sake of "not enough time to do it all?" Should this be the one that gets left out?

Listen, I want well rounded kids. I want Luke to be a math genius, baseball allstar that everybody likes! But he may never fully achieve any of those things.... and we can live with that. But I can't live with him being deficient in knowing God and His Word! Can you?

QUESTION: How do we know if we are getting there? As a young person: how do you know that you are in fact developing spiritually like you should? And parents, how can you determine if you are making holy progress in developing spirituality in your kids?

--If while I am developing in all these areas, "favor with God" is on the top and given greater share!

An event in Jesus youth at the age of 12 may lend us some valuable keys: **Luke 2:41-52**

I. Found in the Temple (v46)

- a. Certainly not advocating abandoning your parents, nor is this text. But it is interesting where this young boy WAS, WANTED TO BE, WAS FOUND.
- b. And that when his parents finally got back... they knew where to look!
- c. QUESTION: If you young folks got separated from your parents, or they came home in the evening and couldn't find ya... where would you parents find you?
 - i. *With God's people?* [Where you would be found says a lot about who you are!]
 - ii. *If on Sunday, without parents, at Worship?*
 - iii. *If during our meeting week on Tuesday night... at this place with Bible... or else*
 - iv. *Would you parents think first that you were doing something Godly???*
 - v. Parents, let me switch this... if your teen couldn't find you on a Sunday evening, during a meeting week, any day... would they find you with God's people doing good, or at worship doing your best.
 - vi. You could be at a restaurant, with friends, or studying for a test... but if there was a chance to be holy for God... where would they find you ?

II. Listening and Questioning (v46-47)

- a. Certainly Jesus was knowledgeable and His understanding amazed them, but did you see how that understanding was developed for these 3 days???
- b. Listening and Asking Questions: How do you develop spiritually? Playing iphone during a sermon, daydreaming during Bible class... or with a chip on shoulder that says I know everything?
- c. The key to spiritual development is active listening to teaching (following along) and, when you don't understand (and you won't always), ask questions! Seek answers!
- d. And without these two qualities, we cannot develop knowledge or faith!
- e. **Ro. 10:17,14** --- Hearing, Reading, Listening, Learning
- f. LUKE and HANNAH - every night... Must ask question. Hard at first... but now they come up with doosies, they are involved, and learning!
- g. Parents, challenge your kids to communicate about Godly things....

III. Concern for Father's Work (v48-49)

- a. Certainly Christ, as the Son of God, was uniquely laying the ground work as the Master Teacher in the temple, so He needed to be there, but the principle is profound for all...
- b. Jesus loved... He loved His mother and father very much. Even while dying on the cross asked John to care for His mother. He loved Himself: in the sense that he ate and grew, learned carpentry and had friends. But above all else, He loved God!
- c. And that was not just lip service... it was TRUE SERVICE. Even at the age of 12, He was concerned with doing the things that God had laid out for Him!!!
- d. Youth: Are you growing spiritually? Do you love God? Only can be answered with follow-up... Where in your busy schedules fit the works of God? Some youth put that not only days later, but decades, and sometimes parents enable!!!
- e. But... **Eph. 2:8-10** --- Not for 30 and older, for all who would be saved by Grace!
- f. What level of urgency is the work of example, study, worship... for God?
- g. Answering the service question, the priority question is how we answer the Love Q...

IV. Honored His Parents (v.51)

- a. In our story, He put God first, and His parents understood that. But as He went with them, he subjected Himself to them to such a loving degree, that she cherished the relationship they had... even as he entered teen years? Imagine!
- b. Some might say, he left subjection to stay in Jerusalem... and we must put God's will above even parents, but honestly the lack of subjection in our time has little to do with God

- c. Kids speak disrespectfully, willfully disobey parents, do for themselves, ignore auth.
- d. Which, gets them out of balance, and leads to adults who are disrespectful, disobedient to authority, selfish and godless!!!
- e. And, too often parents enable by allowing their children to fail in developing respect. If you want them to develop spiritually, you must demand respect for authority.
- f. **Eph. 6:1-3** – Plain language that brings blessings right now, a balanced understanding that will benefit you later, and maybe greatest of all, the ability to be a treasure to your parents... what a great gift to to mom and dad: submissive honor and trust!
- g. A youth cannot develop spiritually, though they worship every opp, if they do not let God's design for the home live in their conduct

Conclusion: Jesus live free of sin! And while he was God, he was subjected to all the same temptations as you and me. He was not successful against Satan because of some God-protection, but because He built a faith in Himself that Satan could not permeate. EVEN FROM YOUTH.

IN the wilderness, Satan didn't quiz his world history knowledge, play Him a game of horse, or compare facebook friend totals... he tested His spiritual strength and allegiance to God!

-I want to pass those tests also... Let time preparing for Satan's questions and God's grading be the priority in the lives of our youth and the design of our parents!