



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **Do You Know Your Story?**

**Luke 2:41-52**

**Message #7 of 50 – S780**

**Sermon given on February 25, 2018**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Do You Know Your Story?

*Luke 2:41-52*

## Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 2**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Life is all about stories – we all have stories about different things in our life
- On Wednesday, Kelly and I will be leaving to be with my daughter Rebecca as she delivers our granddaughter Lillyana
- There will be a story about this delivery
- Get any group of mothers together, and if one of them tells a story about a delivery, they will each share some part of their story too
- It is how we connect to one another – we remind each other that we are all together on this journey called life
- Sometimes our stories remind us just how connected we are
- When my grandson Liam was being delivered, Jordan’s family and ours was waiting together
- When we get together we can say, ‘Remember when Jordan came in and told us they had just kicked him out of the delivery room to take Rebecca in for an emergency C-Section?’
- All the memories, including the emotions come flooding back in
- Our stories are important, not just to us, but to God also
- The question I am going to challenge you with today is, ‘Do you know your story?’
- Before you answer, ‘Of course, I know my story!’ My question is which version of your story do you know? There is more than one version of your story
- We are going to look at tiny glimpse into Jesus’ childhood and hopefully see that there is only one version that really matters
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **Do You Know Your Story?**

- Of the four gospels, each relating to the life and ministry of Jesus, only Luke gives us any information about the childhood of Jesus
- And it is only this one event, this one story - Let's begin
- **Luke 2:41-42**
- This was a big deal to the Jewish people
- It was commanded in the Scriptures – Exodus 23 = 3 times a year, the men were to go to Jerusalem for a festival
- The women and children were not commanded to go, but frequently made the trip also
- It wasn't just a religious ritual – was a time of celebration
- Passover celebrated when God delivered the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt
- It is significant that Luke mentions that Jesus was twelve
- At the age of thirteen – Jewish boys would go through a ritual that identified them as ‘a son of the commandment’ – responsible to keep the commandments of the Law – Bar Mitzvah
- The Mishnah – teachings of the Jewish rabbis = a year or two before this, fathers were to begin training sons in observing the Passover
- A little later, we are going to see that Jesus has a greater understanding of these rituals than the average twelve-year-old boy
- Imagine Joseph explaining the meaning of the lamb, and why they were sacrificing it
- Did Jesus know in that moment that each of the thousands of lambs sacrificed were a foreshadow of what He would do 21 years in the future on the cross
- John the Baptist understood it later **John 1:29**  
**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**
- Then something peculiar happens
- **Luke 2:43-45**
- Before we call CPS and label Joseph and Mary ‘unfit parents’ we need to understand a couple of things
- To travel to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary would have been a part of a fairly large caravan from the city of Nazareth, for safety and fellowship

- Within the caravan, the men would have traveled apart from the women and children
- As a twelve-year-old, Jesus could have been with His father, mother, or with the other boys
- Another interesting thing – The Passover was only one day – notice it says when they had finished the ‘days’
- The Passover was followed immediately by the seven-day long Feast of Unleavened Bread
- By Rabbinical law, you only had to stay for three days, but could stay for all seven
- Because Joseph and Mary were poor, they may have left after three days
- Combine that with the reality that Jesus was an ideal child
- Imagine what that might have been like for Joseph and Mary
- Just as human parents, the idea of losing a child is gut-wrenching and heart-breaking
- **Luke 2:46-47**
- Verse 52 says that Jesus grew in wisdom
- He never stopped being God
- But when He came to this earth as a human child – He set aside His divine attributes; like Omniscience – Jesus didn’t know everything
- Notice that He is not sitting as a teacher in the midst of these men
- He is listening to them teach, asking questions, and answering their questions
- And they are astonished – Jesus was not omniscient, but He was fully indwelt by the Holy Spirit
- He was able to make spiritual connections and understood the truths of God and the Scriptures because the Holy Spirit taught Him
- It is no different for any of us, expose your mind and heart to the truth, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**

**These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

- Jesus learned the same way we do, but His relationship to God and the Holy Spirit helped Him grow in knowledge and understanding very quickly
  - These teachers were all waiting for the Messiah – I don't guess that any of them knew the Messiah was there in their presence
  - I also wonder how many of these men would be around 18 years later and would be offended by the things He said and did
  - Onto this surreal, spiritual moment, a panicked mother bursts in
  - **Luke 2:48**
  - Notice carefully what Mary is saying to Jesus – she is accusing Him of sin
  - There are some who suggest that Mary was sinless, which is why God chose her to carry Jesus in her womb
  - And that she remained sinless, therefore people are encouraged to pray to her
  - To accuse God of sin - is sin! God is incapable of sinning
  - Jesus was human, but even as a twelve-year old boy, He was a sinless human **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- One of the key doctrines of Christianity is that Jesus was perfectly sinless, not just as an adult, but throughout His entire life
  - Be careful that you don't accuse God of sin
  - Mary was frantic, for three days she didn't know what had become of her son – this is an emotional outburst
  - When we are emotionally compromised, we might, like Mary, accuse God of sin
  - Like asking God to explain Himself, 'Why did you let this happen?' 'Where were you God when...? God cannot sin
  - Twelve-year old Jesus responds to His mother
  - **Luke 2:49**
  - If you consider Jesus' statement with the backdrop of the Feast of Unleavened Bread still going on, what He says here is radical
  - Yeast is symbol throughout Scripture of sin
  - During the Feast, all yeast is removed from the home

- Notice the word ‘business’ – Does anyone have a translation that says something different? ‘house’ – could be either one
- Jesus is saying, here I am, the sinless Son of God, in My Father’s house during the festival that foreshadows My sinless sacrifice
- Notice also that Jesus refers to God as His Father – that was a big deal – later **John 5:18**

**Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

- Jesus, even at the age of twelve knew who He was and who His Father was – no one else did
- Jesus knew His story, which makes the next part so remarkable to me
- **Luke 2:50-52**
- Jesus already, at age twelve, knows that He is God the Son, but made Himself subject to His parents **Philippians 2:5-7**

**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**

- God the Son, in sinless perfection submitted Himself to His imperfect, sinful parents
- That is a very convicting thing when I think about all the times I have been unwilling to submit myself to someone I thought was inferior to me in some way **Ephesians 5:20-21**

**...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

- If God the Son could submit Himself to a creature who was infinitely inferior to Himself, I should be able to submit to anyone
- That is all we know about Jesus’ childhood – the next 18 years are silent
- Even at a very young age, Jesus knew what His story was
- Do you know what your story is?
- Want to leave with three things we need to understand about our story
- First – **God is the author of your story!**
- This universe and everything in it exists to give glory to God, and He sovereignly controls it all
- You are not the author of your story – you are a character in your story
- Your past is not the author of your story – your mistakes, sins, disappointments, tragedies, successes, accomplishments are not your story – they are simply scenes in your story

- The people around you are not the author of your story – your parents, your spouse, your children, friends, boss – they are just supporting characters in your story
- The world is not the author of your story – it is just the backdrop for your story
- Jesus knew that God was the author of His story
- Second thing – **Let God write your story!**
- If you were to sit down and write a story, you would pick up a pen, and start writing
- You are the pen in the hand of God in the writing of your story
- The difference between you and a pen is that you have free will – you do what you want to, even if God wants to do something else
- Because God gave us free will, He is constrained to let us use it, even if we write a story different from the one He wants
- The problem with that is the story we write will be filled with more suffering and difficulties than the one that God writes for us
- To let God write our story we must get to know God better through His Word, believe what it says, and obey it, and let the Holy Spirit teach us and lead us
- Third and finally – **Your story is to be told!**
- Stories exist to be told – an untold story of God in your life is useless, faithless, and powerless
- God gives us stories so that others can experience God in their lives
- If you don't tell the story God wrote in your life, you are denying God to them – tell your God-written story
- Three quick things to keep in mind as you are telling your story
- First – **Keep it Christ-centered**
- Make the story about God working in your life – not about how good or bad you were
- Second – **Keep it others-oriented**
- Don't tell stories that make you feel good about yourself – tell stories that will bless others
- Third – **Keep it faith-focused**
- Your stories should lead people to a deeper faith or to a first-time faith

- Doesn't mean you should give an altar call at the end of your story, but your story should lead them closer to God, not away from Him
- God is writing a story about Christ in your life, learn to let Him write His story in your life, and then as He is writing it, share that story with others
- Get to know your story and go tell it!
- **Pray!**