

Series Slide- Luke

Spielberg Face

Dolly zooming in shot of character looking off screen- eyes wide open, mouth agape, conveying shock, awe, or wonder.

show pics one at a time

The point cannot be overstated: the world is not what we think it is. It is so much weirder. It is so much darker. It is so, so much brighter and more beautiful. We do not create meaning; meaning is already there, waiting to be discovered. Christians of the first millennium knew this. We have lost that knowledge, abandoned faith in this claim, and forgotten how to search. This is a mass forgetting compelled by the forces that forged the modern world and taught us that enchantment was for primitives. Exiled from the truths that the old ones knew, we fill our days with distractions to help us avoid the hard questions that we fear can't be answered. Or we give ourselves over to false enchantments—the distractions and deceptions of money, power, the occult, sex, drugs, and the allure of the material world—in a vain attempt to connect with something beyond ourselves to find meaning and purpose to life.- Rod Dreher, *Living in Wonder*

Longing of our age- Need meaning and relationship. We are overflowing in the “freedom” category...which honestly- is not really freedom at all. It's just empty “choice”.

I know some of you are here today- because you are beginning that search that Rod talks about. For something meaningful outside of living for yourself.

Title Slide- “The Forgotten Search: How Jesus Offers More Than You Thought ”- Luke 2:39-52, 3:21-22

Gospel of Luke Series- Emphasis on Holy Spirit- and the strange ways he works.

Holy Spirit- one of the members of the Trinity- yet not thought about as much as other two.

Luke sets out on one hand to show you ordinary happenings. Like a reporter. Yet- in all of that he shows you the way the Holy Spirit works in all of the everyday.

Pick up right after Xmas.

Luke 2:39-52; 3:21-22

39 When they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40** The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him.

41 Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. **42** When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. **43** After those days were over, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. **44** Assuming he was in the traveling party, they went a day's journey. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. **45** When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. **46** After three days, they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all those who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. **48** When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me? " he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house? " **50** But they did not understand what he said to them.

51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother kept all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

Luke 3:21-22

21 When all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. As he was praying, heaven opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended on him in a physical appearance like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased."

1) God reveals himself through slow, ordinary means.

JtB

Luke 1:80

The child grew up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Spielberg if I've ever seen it

Luke 2:8-9

8 In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

2:25-27

Simeon- keep doing the everyday. And before death- you'll see the Messiah.
Mary & Joseph- Doing the everyday following of the law.

2:33-

Then they are amazed. Transcendence. Spielberg.

2:36-38

Anna- Didn't leave the temple. night and day, fasting and prayers. A widow for 84 years. Looking forward to Israel's redemption. The coming of the Messiah. Then she sees Jesus

2:39-40

12 years pass.

Son of God. Immanuel. just growing up and becoming strong and learning.
Ever think about the kids that played with boy Jesus in the yard? God's grace on him.
Did anybody recognize it?- No. Settled into ordinary life.

2:41-42

Every year...

Jesus 12- according to custom

2:46-47

Jesus- learning and asking questions.

Spielberg face comes- People AMAZED at his answers to the Rabbis.

Back to 1)

Pillars.

Read Bible.

Community Group.

Show up at worship gathering.

Don't quit when difficult...or you'll chase moments.- experiences.

A good theology-

Rooted & Astonished (John Webster)

Rootedness when used for mere safety, to not experience the risk of astonishment, is sin. Of the conservative type. It prizes security over theology. - John Weber derivative

Astonishment that refuses rootedness merely chasing experience- is a sin on the liberal side. It doesn't ground itself in truth- and is easily deceived.

But theology calls for rootedness for the purpose of astonishment. Wow. Risk.

2) A relationship with God transcends & makes sense of all other relationships.

Father- why 12 years old is significant.

v 48

"Your Father and I"

Here's what she's saying. "Of all the years, this is the one year where you should be doing the will of your father. This is the one year in which you should be walking with your father and listening to your father and learning of your father. This is the one year in which you should be letting your father apprentice you into what your calling is and

what your business is and what you're supposed to be doing. Of all years, this is the one year you should be with your father."

v 49-50

What does Jesus say? "Mom, I am." You notice she says, "your father," and he says, "my Father." He's answering her. She says, "How could you treat your father like this?" The answer is, "Mom, it's happening. This is supposed to be the year in which my Father begins to tell me who I am and what I'm doing and why I'm here and where I'm going. Mom, it has begun."

His Highness, transcendence. ASTONISHMENT

He's looking at his Transcendent Father...and reordering all his relationships under that.

v 51-52

Jesus immediately after saying- "This is my Father" settles right back into obedience.

Humility- ROOTEDNESS

Even down to "neighbor" relationship. Links loving God with loving people.

Way look at God, look at people...vice versa.

Hard father relationship.

Hard church relationship.

No one is insignificant- there is potential Spielberg face every time you look at another person.

CS LEWIS- you're never speaking with a mere mortal.

3) Jesus gives you a a secure identity with everyday access to the Transcendent.

Narrative jumps to JtB...the next time we get to Jesus its his baptism.

18 years of Jesus starting this prep with his FATHER- to his baptism.

ANd then a transcendent declaration.

Spielberg Face.

3:21-22

“As he was praying”- Ordinary

Trinitarian presence. Close Encounter of the 3rd kind. CONTACT.

Immediately after- into the desert. 40 days and nights of fasting- then temptation.

Il prep for 3 years of ministry-

There is a spiritual preparedness to realize sonship here BEFORE the crux of his ministry.

This is how life (and spiritual life is designed to be)- realize sonship....then ready.

LEADERSHIP MOMENT

TREV- Holy Spirit presence and sureness of Sonship.

Holy Spirit presence and readiness to do the ordinary while waiting for the extraordinary

How does the power come.

Not as abstract- “This is my son.”- as personal- “You are my son” (different than Matthew)

When the voice of heaven speaks what it saying— he’s quoting Scripture

WHOA. He can’t know this without all that ordinary boyhood bible study.

Psalm 2:7 & Isaiah 42:1

7 I will declare the Lord’s decree.

He said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have become your Father.

“This is my servant; I strengthen him,

this is my chosen one; I delight in him.

I have put my Spirit on him; Psalm 2-Messianic figure- put down all evil- set the world straight. Incredible power.

Public declaration of kingship

2nd part- Isaiah 42

Suffering servant.

Isaiah 42:1- my servant in whom my soul is well pleased Shadowy and mysterious.

No one can be this person!

Triumph over evil through suffering and rejection, weakness and death?

He doesn't spend the rest of his life keeping this unique relationship from us...but calling men and women into the father-child intimate family relationship with God.

Romans 8- you received a spirit of sonship- by the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba', Father! " 16 The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, 17 and if children, also heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. This is how the Spirit empowers, by giving a clear, direct testimony deep in your mind, deep in your heart, assuring you of your identity as a child of God ... a loved, honored, accepted child of God.

Kierkegaard- "Sin is basing your identity on anything other than God" Anything more central to you than God...is sin.

It is centering your identity on your relationship with God- what he says about you and your future.

Luke 3:22

It makes you resilient. Unshakeable.

Sonship- We have a mini version of what Jesus has.

1) Honor- You are my son

- 2) Access- Whom I love
- 3) Safety- with you I am well pleased.

1- Honor

Psalm 2- son is the heir

Son gets all the father has.

Rank, status, wealth, estate of the father comes to the son.

Even women are sons- inheritance wise.

Gal 3- you are all sons, you are all a part of the breed. you are all sheep.

we need all the metaphors

Metaphors have revelation in them

2- Access

Jesus first person in the history of the world when he said “abba Father” to do anything like that.

Nothing like it in Eastern religions. or Judaism.

Luke 11- Pray irreverently (shameless boldness) v 8

3- Absolute safety

Parent love different from friend or romantic.

Heart locks in more than ever on disobedient. More concerned.

Happy as your least happiest child.

Isaiah 49:15- can a woman forget the baby who has nursed at her breast?

That is nothing compared to how I am bound to you.

With this kind of relationship- there is a highness and lowness. Majesty and meekness.

CONFIDENCE- Who cares what someone else thinks?

HUMILITY- I can finally admit my faults and sins because I'm safe.

How do you get that sonship? Spielberg Face. ROOTED FOR ASTONISHMENT

2 things

1- Sense excellence of the LORD (

FEAR

2- See humility of Jesus

sacrifice. Sonship makes no sense without sacrifice.

"How could he be well pleased. Look at what I've done?"

In your sin- What God says about Jesus at his baptism...is what he says about you.

"I'm not worthy of it. It isn't true."

Remember Isaiah 42- suffering servant.

I am well pleased with the work of my

servant- pierced for transgressions by wounds we are healed.

What does Jesus Christ say? "I know! I took the rejection. Will you sit down at the Table and be my brother, be my sister? Sit down at the Table. I did it for you. On the cross, I said, 'My God, my God,' not, 'My Father, my Father.' I lost the sonship so you could have it." Do you have that understanding of the excellence of God and the sacrifice of Jesus? Then, you know when you say, "Lord, accept me because of what Jesus has done," in him you are well pleasing.

Often depictions in movies (Aragorn in LotR, Peter in Narnia, Jesus in JC SUPERSTAR OR Last Temptation- there is a struggle. IS this who I am?)

But Jesus here- at 12- "Oh yeah. I'm definitely HIM"

Not in a sort of prideful snooty kind of way. But in a matter of fact, and this is so important to what I am doing...kind of way.

TREV- Uncertainty is a virtue and sort of a rite of passage. We picture humility as uncertainty. But Jesus' humility is not found in his uncertainty...but in his willingness to take up his cross and die for people who don't deserve it.

What if (Jesus virtually hints at this) his real Father was doing that too? What if his real Father was walking around Jerusalem and going about a million levels deeper? Then when he went to the temple his real Father said, "You're the new temple, and you're going to make this place obsolete," and when he walked along the streets of Jerusalem the Father said, "You're going to be walking on these streets, but you'll be carrying a cross."

He did that for you.