

Sunday, December 19, 2021

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

As the Father Sent Jesus

Series: Advent 2021 - 3

Text: Luke 1:1 - 56; 2:29 - 52; 3:21-22

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is an example of how the Father desires to grow us into deeper relationship with him and equip each of us for a unique purpose before him.

Introduction:

The devotional last week was from John 3:1 - 17 and entitled "The Divine Gift"

1. The Father's Gift of the Son
2. The Gift of Jesus Christ
3. The Gift of the Father and the Son

~ John 20:19 - 23

Specifically John 20:21, "*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."*"

~ Setting direction by immovable landmarks.

~ Setting direction by compass.

~ Going with a guide; Hebrews 12:1- 2..."*looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,*"

1. Consider How the Father Sent Jesus:

~ Luke 1:35, "*And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God."*"

~ Luke 2:40, "*And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him."*

~ Luke 2:42, "*And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom."*

Age of understanding?

~ Luke 2:46 – 47, "*After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers."*

~ Luke 2:51 – 52, "*And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. (52) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."*

~ Luke 3:21 – 22, "*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, (22) and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."*"

2. Consider How the Father Sends Believers:

~ Born again of the living God; 1 Peter 1:23, "*since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;*"

As Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit so are believers in Jesus Christ!

We, like the infant Jesus, need to grow; Hebrews 5:11 – 14 emphasizes our need to mature.

~ Believers have 'favor' from God; Luke 4:18 – 19, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Isaiah 61:2, "*to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor; and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;*"

~ Believers are instructed to study the Word of God that we would be able to answer the world; 2 Timothy 2:15, "*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."*

~ Jesus submitted to his parents; Hebrews 12:5 – 6, "*And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. (6) For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."*

~ Before Jesus began his public ministry the Holy Spirit came UPON him! Before the disciples began their public ministry the Holy Spirit came UPON them (Acts 2). Believers are encouraged to be renewed in the Holy Spirit continuously; Ephesians 5:18, "*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*"

Conclusion:

Philippians 2:12 – 13, "*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as I my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*