



INTO THE  
WORD

**Luke 2:41 - 5:16**

# INTO THE WORD

Luke 2:41-3:22

Imagine this...instead of sitting and listening quietly, a 12-year-old boy is teaching a bunch of adults; and every single one of them is amazed at His understanding. Now imagine if you were that boy. What if adults that you respected were crowding around you

and were amazed at your understanding and how you answered their questions. How would you cope with that?

Children love to show off. From the 'my daddy will beat your daddy up', to the 'I know more than you do' debates; most kids just love to show how they are better. A friend once heard two kids arguing after Christmas one year. One was boasting that he saw Santa's reindeer on the roof of his house. The other child went a step further and boasted that he actually saw Santa leaving the presents in his house and spoke with him. You can see the problem here; or at least I hope you do...

It's in our sinful human nature to try to prove how much better we are than others. If I had been Jesus, I would have definitely been showing off my wisdom to the other kids, letting my parents know how smart I was. I would have even told my parents that they should be listening to and obeying me because I knew more than they did. But that's not Jesus. He is incredibly humble, even at this young age.

The reality is that Jesus is the only person who is qualified to boast...but He doesn't. On the other hand, we have nothing to boast about but do it all the time.

P.S. Mary is still treasuring up those memories of Jesus in her heart. Have you started yet?

## REFLECT

How do you struggle with trying to prove myself to others?

Why do you feel the need to prove myself to others?

Spend some time reflecting over Jesus' humility in this situation.

## PRAY

Ask God to help you be humble before Him and others, and to always see yourself accurately.

# INTO THE WORD

Luke 3:23-4:15

Yesterday, we were looking at the desire we have to prove ourselves to other people. The strength of this ever-present desire of our sinful hearts feels a thousand times stronger when your enemy is taunting you and says you can't do something. If you try to walk away and the enemy starts to say you're scared, or you can't do it—that's when it's really hard not to prove yourself.

Jesus is standing with His enemy in Luke 3. He's standing with the one who tempted Adam and Eve in the garden leading to the destruction of everything around us. Satan starts to taunt Jesus. 'If you are the Son of God' then do this. In other words, Satan is saying "If you're actually the Son of God,

then prove it. Show to me that You are the One that God has sent. Prove that You are Who You say You are."

If Jesus had given in to the temptation to prove Satan wrong, He'd have to keep on proving Himself. Satan could come back at any time and say, 'If you are the Son of God then...', and Jesus would have to prove Himself again. Jesus isn't interested in playing that game, and neither should we.

The greatest promises in Scripture is that you become God's child when you believe in Jesus' death and resurrection, repent of your sin, and follow Him. This comes with a joyful announcement from the Father: 'You are My beloved child; with you I am well pleased.' If you truly understand His delight and the worth He places upon you, you will not worry about proving yourself to others anymore.

## APPLY

Write out 'You are My beloved child; with you I am well pleased' on a post-it note and place it somewhere you'll see and read it. Remind yourself daily of how God sees you and thank Him.

## PRAY

Ask God to help you really believe this truth.

"YOU ARE HIS  
BELOVED CHILD"

# INTO THE WORD

Luke 4:16-30

I would love to have seen their faces after this one. They are intently focused on driving Jesus out of town. They are deeply angry at Jesus and want to kill Him. Finally, they get to the top of the cliff, ready to throw Him off when suddenly, they realise He isn't there! How on earth could they lose Him? There's something so comical about this. 'Where's Jesus gone, Billy?' 'I dunno. I thought you had Him, Bert.' You can just imagine their anger and confusion as Jesus slips away.

Obviously, it wasn't Jesus' time to die for us, and it wasn't God's plan for Him to die by being thrown off a cliff. But one day His time would come. This passage is riddled with

## REFLECT

Meditate on how Jesus willingly died for my sin.

## APPLY

Jesus told the truth boldly, even when it meant people would hate Him. Don't shy away from the bits of your faith that our society might not like.

little glimpses of the future. 'Physician, heal yourself.' It's another way of saying, 'Person who heals people, heal yourself.' This is similar to the mockers at the cross who told Jesus to save Himself because He had saved others. In this story, Jesus is escaping the wrath of the people in His hometown, later He will be accepting the wrath of the Pharisees and onlookers at His crucifixion.

"JESUS WILLINGLY  
WENT TO THE CROSS  
FOR YOUR SIN"

In this story, people brought Jesus up a hill to hurt him, and later He will be led up another hill from which there would be no escape. Yes, Jesus was capable of escaping any situation; but He wouldn't do it. He chose to die on the cross for you and for me.

## PRAY

Ask God to help you be bold like Jesus.

# INTO THE WORD

**Luke 4:31-44**

People were crazy about Jesus. Working miracles, healing the sick, teaching the Word with authority in an amazing way, casting out demons, and forgiving people of their sin—Jesus could do it all. Wouldn't you be impressed and want to

keep Him around? So did these people. In fact, they would have kept Jesus from leaving their town (v42).

Imagine all the amazing things Jesus could have done there. He could have started a medical centre with regular healing sessions. He could have started a school and taught people how to understand the teaching of the Bible. He could have established a restaurant for the poor and hungry; He'd only need a few fish and loaves of bread... Things could have been good here.

But when the people make it clear they want Him to stay, Jesus says no. It's not because He's mean or disliked the people, rather it is because He knows His purpose. His purpose was to preach the Word of God in other towns as well. I wonder what your purpose is.

Some of you will be lazy. You make up tons of excuses as to why you can't do this or that. Let's be honest; most of your excuses will be lame. Some of you are 'yes' people. You can't say 'no' to anyone because you are afraid of letting anyone down. It doesn't matter which type you are or even if you switch between the two. Everyone needs need to know that their life has a God-given purpose. Everyone needs to work out what that purpose is. Everyone needs to prioritise their time and effort to fulfil that purpose.

## REFLECTION

What is my God-given purpose? What am I good or bad at? What am I passionate about? How can I use that for God's glory?

## PRAY

Ask God to help you know your purpose in life.

## APPLY

Finding answers to that reflection can be tricky. Ask someone that you trust and who knows you well to help.

# INTO THE WORD

Luke 5:1-16

It's been a long night. Simon has been up all-night catching fish...well, trying to catch fish. It has not been a very successful night; in fact, it's been the most frustrating night. You can imagine the emotional state of a fisherman who's been up all night and hasn't caught a thing!

So, this Jesus guy comes along. He's a carpenter by trade and now has become a teacher, a healer and doer of all things miraculous and wonderful. He's just preached to the people, and I'm sure it was as incredible as always. Simon recognises that Jesus is good at what He does, but probably doesn't have any experience at fishing.

I would have thought: 'Hey, Jesus, You stick to preaching, and I'll stick to fishing! Deal?' Without an argument, Simon says, 'We haven't caught anything so this seems a little pointless, but I will because You've asked me to.'

Occasionally, Jesus will ask us to do something that seems stupid to our limited understanding. 'Throw out the nets.' 'Bring Me the five loaves and two fish to feed over 5,000'. These requests seem ridiculous, and our immediate reaction will be to argue and tell Jesus we know better. But if we do, we'll miss the miracle.

One time at a wedding, I felt Jesus ask me to share a story about healing. I resisted at first because I was afraid of looking awkward and stupid. Eventually, I did tell the story to the guy beside me. He'd seen someone else receive the same healing on YouTube but didn't know if it was real. So, he prayed and asked God to prove that the healing was real by meeting someone to whom it had actually happened. I was that person. I had almost missed being part of God's work by not taking a risk. Don't miss the miracle.

## APPLY

When taking a risk for Jesus, never ask 'What if nothing happens?' Instead, ask 'What if something does happen?'

## PRAY

Confess your arrogance to Jesus and ask Him to help you obey Him, no matter what He asks you to do.

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