

{FINDING THE FATHER}

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.
⁴² And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; ⁴³ and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, ⁴⁴ but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.
⁴⁵ When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.
⁴⁶ Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸ When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. ⁵¹ And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Luke 2:41-51

{We know God best when we know Him as Father}

In these first words of Jesus, as a 12 year-old boy, He revolutionizes and rewrites the theology of the world when he calls God Father.

Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven...' Matthew 6:9

In My Father's house are many dwelling places;
if it were not so, I would have told you... John 14:2

Do not call anyone on earth your father;
for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Matthew 23:9


Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36

Do not be afraid, little flock,
for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32

I speak the things which I have seen with My Father. John 8:38a

.....
NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.

 confusing

 surprising
interesting

 personal

 main point

All things have been handed over to Me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son. Luke 10:22

Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
Matthew 6:31-32

For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.. John 5:26

I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
John 5:30

Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. John 12:27

And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:46

From his first recorded words as a twelve year old boy to his final statement on the Cross, Jesus' focus was on God as Father.
It is the revolutionary conception that transforms all thought about man's relationship to God.


{We must identify the things of the Father} {We must make the things of the Father our priority}


"We are trapped in a rat race, not just of acquiring money, but also of meeting family and business obligations.
We pant through an endless series of appointments and duties.
This problem is especially acute for those who want to do what is right.
With frantic fidelity we respond to all calls to service, distressingly unable to distinguish the voice of Christ from that of human manipulators."


Richard Foster, Freedom of Simplicity


{Next Steps}

.....
NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.

 confusing

 surprising
interesting

 personal

 main point
