

Your Daily Appointments With God

MONDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-23, 32-33 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.
Families are made from individuals, so focus on yourself and your family's walk with God. What encouragement do you find from these two passages?

TUESDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 and Philippians 2:3-5. How many of the five foundation stones are mentioned in this passage on marriage? Try to identify all five. How does Jesus' example reinforce love in a marriage, friendship and or family?

WEDNESDAY

Read Colossians 3:5-10. Can you find the three types of family destroyers? Summarize them. Which one could be a weakness for you?

THURSDAY

Read Colossians 3:12-17. Which kind of heart does God want you to exhibit in your life and in your family? Can you list at least six heart changers God calls us to pursue? What role does the Word have in transforming your heart?

FRIDAY

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. What is the foundation of a godly home and family? What promises does God make to us? What expectations does God have for us? What principles for parenting can you discover and list from these great verses?

Presented by Jeff Rosenthal, Senior Pastor

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Home Improvement

Part 4 – It Takes A Family!

Selected Scripture

Introduction: “In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. The education of the child is to be begun in the home. In the home the child is to learn the lessons that are to guide it through life. From infancy lessons of honor and obedience to parents are to be taught.” (Ellen White, PUR, August 18, 1910)

➤ *“A kingdom where people fight each other will end up in ruin. And a family that fights will break up.”* Luke 11:17 CEV

I. The Story of Jesus comes to a climax in the Gospel of Luke when the growing Jesus is on the threshold of adulthood.

A. In Jewish culture, at 12 years of age you are still a child, but at 13 you are considered an adult.

B. A _____ is for a boy becoming a man, an adult and a _____ for a girl who now becomes a woman.

➤ *“After three days Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety. Jesus said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” But they did not understand what he said to them.”* Luke 2:46-50

C. How could good _____ lose Jesus?

D. Jesus as a boy learned by heart the Psalms, and the songs of worship the pilgrims sang as they went to the holy city of Zion, the city of Jerusalem. He was immersed in the great stories of the Bible and particularly in the festival of Passover.

-Continued inside-

- E. “The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things.” Desire of Ages, EGW, p. 70.
- F. How could responsible parents (Mary and Joseph) have lost their child for three days?
- G. They probably did not expect to find their 12-year-old boy in the _____, the most sacred place in all Israel.
- H. And here is their boy, sitting on the ground in the middle of the teachers, not just listening, but asking and answering questions about the Law, the *Torah*.
- I. Yet, even Jesus perplexed his _____!
- J. This is a human family, and Mary and Joseph are human parents who have lost their child.
- And now they have found him, and they’re relieved.
- K. So Mary's questions to Jesus, “Why have you treated us like this? Why have you done this to us?”
- Implies that she thought his motivation or actions were deliberately to hurt or embarrass his parents.
- L. Yet, Jesus on the other hand, didn't see it the same way his parents saw it.
- *Jesus said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”* Luke 2:49
- M. It was about the growing sense that Jesus had a special, unique relationship with the Father.
- N. Yet, at the age of 12, Jesus was aware of his _____ with God, aware of his special _____, and his need to be _____ for it.
- O. I believe that Family life prepares children for God's purposes!
- P. It’s important to realize that family was the nurturing context within which Jesus was prepared for his life's work and mission.
- Q. Family life was the primary place where Jesus was shaped for adulthood with _____, _____, and _____.
- R. His growth did not happen by some extraordinary set of circumstances, but by daily faith and work, practiced and experienced by his parents and siblings in their home.
- S. “There are many who dwell with interest upon the period of His (Jesus’) public ministry, while they pass unnoticed the teaching of His early years. But it is in His home life that He is the pattern for all children and youth.” Desire of Ages, Ellen White, p. 74
- T. Families are foundational. They are the _____ human units to grow human beings into whatever they become - for ill or, by God's grace, for good.
- U. Remember - Jesus grew healthy in four balanced ways:
- V. In wisdom, He grew in making _____ decisions.
- W. In stature, He grew in taking care of His _____ (His body).
- X. In favor with God, He grew in doing the _____ of His Father.
- Y. In favor with man, He grew in _____ and in _____ with people.
- Z. “From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; He lived to bless others.” Desire of Ages, Ellen White, p. 70
- The story of Jesus’ childhood teaches us how important our family life is for parents, children, the church and society.
- For in Home Improvement – it truly takes a family!