

## Sunday Morning Message

January 3, 2016 (Modified from a message originally preached on October 30, 2011)

*The Family Business*

Topic – The Work of God

Text – Luke 2:40 – 52

Congregational Reading – Luke 2:48 – 51

### **Introduction**

Read vs. 48 & 49 again

Illustration – My family's business growing up was the candy and nut business. (Explain)

Eventually, our family business became the Work of God.

*This morning I want to speak to you for a few minutes on The Family Business. (Open in Prayer)*

Read the text beginning from Luke 2:40 – 52 making comments along the way.

V. 40 – Luke's gospel is the only one of the four that speaks of Christ's childhood in Nazareth. His step-father, Joseph was a carpenter.

V. 41 – Explain The Feast of the Passover – mandatory for all males to appear at the temple in Jerusalem.

*"Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year." - (Exodus 23:14)*

*"Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)" - (Exodus 23:15)*

*"And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field." - (Exodus 23:16)*

*"Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD." - (Exodus 23:17)*

Note – God's people have gone from mandatory appearances before the Lord at the temple to casual visits to the church.

In the Millennial Kingdom – God's people will once again be mandated to appear before the Lord; and God says that if they do not come, they will receive no rain for their crops.

We need to put God first in our lives. Many of God's people today are not receiving the rain (blessings) from the Lord that they could be receiving because they are putting themselves (or something else) before the Lord. *Seek ye first...* (Matthew 6:33)

V. 42 – 12 years old – I am sure Jesus had travelled with his parents before this, but now he was at the age where he became a man and was expected to appear before the Lord Himself.

Note – In the Jewish culture a boy became a man at 12. Unfortunately today, we have many full-grown adult males that have never become men. They are still acting like children.

**At 12 Jesus was expected to profess the doctrines of his faith.**

**At 12 Jesus was expected to participate in Worship.**

**At 12 Jesus was expected to provide for His family.**

Vs. 43 – 45 – Joseph and Mary lost track of Jesus.

Illustrate – Melissa was lost at the mall once.

Notice that they had to go back to where they found him. When we get away from God, we must go back to Him – He is always where He is supposed to be.

Illustrate – song - *Where Is Jesus?*

*On a journey from Jerusalem returning to their home Joseph and his family traveled all day long They must have walked for many miles before they realized Jesus was not with them. Mary sadly cried,*

*Chorus: "Where is Jesus? Did we leave Him far behind, Did we take for granted? He was here walking with us all the time. Where is Jesus? To find Him once again We must return to the place where we left Him. Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?"*

Vs. 46 – 47 – Notice that Jesus listened and asked questions, which is the key to learning.

Vs. 48 – 50 – Mary refers to Joseph as Jesus father, but Jesus corrects her error by declaring who His real Father is. His Father's business was not the carpenter shop – it was with God's people in the Temple.

Vs. 51 – 52 – Notice that even though He was God, He was subject unto His parents.

Note to kids – If God was subject (in submission to) His earthly parents, then I suggest that you should be too.

## **Transition**

### **What Is “The Father’s Business” For Us Today?**

#### **I The Father’s Business Involves The Local Church (so we had better be in our place)**

*"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." - (1 Timothy 3:15)*

If you and I are going to be “About Our Father’s Business” than we must be involved in a local New Testament Church.

##### **A We must participate in the local church.**

*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." - (Hebrews 10:23-25)*

##### **B We must pray for the local church.**

*"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:"*

*(2 Thessalonians 3:1)*

The devil hates the church.

##### **C We must protect the local church.**

*"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." - (Ephesians 4:29)*

Don't do or say anything that will hurt the cause of Christ. Don't allow anybody else to do it either.

## **D We must provide for the local church.**

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." - (Malachi 3:10)*

## **E We must propagate the local church.**

Jesus wants to build his church:

*"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." - (Matthew 16:18)*

He builds the church through our fulfillment of the Great Commission.

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." - (Matthew 28:18-20)*

In order to propagate the church, we must understand the purpose of the church.

Our purpose is:

- 1 To Inspire People to develop a heart for God.
- 2 To Include people in the church family.
- 3 To instruct people from the Word of God.
- 4 To involve people in the ministry.
- 5 To impact our world for Christ.

## **II The Father's Business Instructs with The Scriptures (So we had better be in the Book)**

Jesus was discussing the Bible with these doctors.

Note – sound Bible doctrine is critical

*"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to **doctrine**. ... Take heed unto thyself, and unto the **doctrine**; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." - (1 Timothy 4:13, 16)*

Remember – the church is the pillar and ground of the truth.

## **A The Word of God Cleanses**

*"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." - (Psalm 119:9)*

## **B The Word of God Corrects**

*"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." - (2 Timothy 4:1-4)*

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - (Hebrews 4:12)*

## **C The Word of God Counsels**

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

(Psalm 119:105)

## **D The Word of God Consolidates (Strengthens)**

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." - (Romans 10:17)*

## **III The Father's Business Is Saving Souls (so we had better be out in the fields – out in the streets and lanes of the city)**

*"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." - (Luke 19:10)*

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - (John 3:16)*

*"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." - (John 20:21)*

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." - (Mark 16:15)*

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." - (Acts 1:8)*

*"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ... Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." - (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20)*

## **Conclusion**

Are you about your family business – or are you about “The Father’s Business”?

100 years from now it will not matter in the slightest how many bags of gummi bears or candy corn I sold; it will not be important how many new accounts I opened; it will not be remembered at all what my best week of sales was; but what will matter, what will be remembered will be:

How consistent and faithful I was to the Local Church

How careful I was to study and then teach the Scriptures.

How compassionate I was to care about the souls of men.

These are what the Father’s Business is all about.