

ASTONISHED

AT THE WISDOM AND WORDS OF JESUS

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SUMMARY

Throughout His ministry, Jesus came close to people and He conversed with people, and when He did people were astonished at what He said. In this sermon series, we are listening to and learning from the wise Words of Jesus.

MESSAGE

Luke 2:41-52 says, “. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his

mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

If you're in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I'd like to draw your attention to verse 47 where the Bible says, *"And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."*

For a few moments, I'd like to consider this thought: **ASTONISHED AT THE WISDOM AND WORDS OF JESUS.**

The plan of God did not begin with a **DEMONSTRATION OF HIS POWER**; the plan of God began with the **DECLARATION OF A PRECIOUS PROMISE**. That promise was eternal life.

Titus 1:2 says, *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."*

We talked about hope this morning (Sermon titled: More Hope: Pleasing God more means believing God can when I know that I can't), but what makes hope powerful is the possibility of it being or becoming reality. What makes the hope of eternal life that God has promised so wonderful is that it isn't just a **POSSIBILITY**; it's a **CERTAINTY**. Once the promise of eternal life was made, God established a plan and began the process of fulfilling His promise.

Throughout the Old Testament, we find that the Holy Spirit painted pictures of the plan of God, prepared the world for the plan of God, and positioned people for the plan of God. It was then, *"...in the fulness of time..."* (Galatians 4:4), that God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ into this world through a virgin birth.

Isaiah 7:14 says, *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

The New Testament begins with the Holy Spirit take a body that God had prepared for Jesus and placing it in the womb of the virgin Mary. God the Son became the Son of Man, and thus *"...God with us"* (Matthew 1:23). We then are only given a couple glimpses into the childhood and early adult years of Jesus' life. One when He was eight days old and one when He was twelve years old.

At the age of twelve, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to keep the Passover Feast. This time wasn't just a time of **CELEBRATION**, but it was also a time of **PARTICIPATION**. According to Jewish historians, up to the age of twelve, children were treated as such – children. They enjoyed their childhood, they were educated at home, and they engaged in the responsibilities of the home and the livelihood of the family, but, when they turned twelve, they were identified as a "Son of the Law." They were no longer viewed as children. They were now considered to be old enough to **KNOW** and to **OBEY** the law for themselves.

While this cannot be proven through Scripture, this could have been the very first time that Jesus participated in the Passover feast in Jerusalem. They travelled to Jerusalem in groups, and

they were on their way back home when Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus wasn't in the group. They returned to Jerusalem where they found Jesus listening and asking questions and we are told all who heard Him "...were *astonished at his understanding and answers*" (Luke 2:47).

The word *understanding* has to do with Jesus' intellect, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

The word *answers* has to do with the responses that Jesus gave and the words that Jesus spoke.

At the age of twelve, Jesus didn't just have an intense interest in the Word of God, but He had incredible understanding of the Word of God. To put it simply: Jesus knew how to handle the Word of God. Oh, how interesting, and perhaps a little convicting, it would have been had we had more of this three-day event recorded for us in Scripture.

Here Jesus is sitting in the midst of the doctors - those who "knew" the law and instructed others in the law. Scribes and Pharisees, no doubt. While there isn't much told us about them here, Jesus had much to say about this group.

In Matthew 15:14, Jesus called them "...*blind leaders of the blind...*"

In Matthew 23:15, Jesus called them "...*hypocrites...*"

In Matthew 23:33, Jesus called them "...*serpents...*" and a "...*generation of vipers...*"

These were not good individuals. They were wicked and morally wrong individuals who utilized the law and status to cover their own sinfulness, and yet, here is Jesus listening to them and asking them questions about the law. I can't help but think that it was an **INTENSE** conversation (not argumentative), and perhaps at moments very **UNCOMFORTABLE**. So much so, that Luke records that "...*all that heard him were astonished...*"

That word *astonished* is a very interesting word. It literally means "to be out of stance, or beside oneself." It is interesting to note that our English word "astonish," which is derived from the Latin word *extonare*, means "to strike with thunder." It's the idea of someone that has been shocked and stunned by or at something.

Throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus, we find that people were amazed at the mighty power and miracles of Jesus.

Luke 9:43 says as much: "*And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God....*"

But we find time and time again that people were astonished at the wisdom and the words of Jesus.

Luke 4:32 says, "*And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.*"

Mark 1:22 says, *“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”*

Matthew 7:28 says, *“And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine.”*

Mark 6:2 says, *“And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?”*

Matthew 13:54 says, *“And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?”*

Mark 10:24 says, *“And the disciples were astonished at his words.”*

Mark 10:26 says, *“And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?”*

Matthew 22:33 says, *“And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.”*

Mark 11:18 says, *“And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.”*

The Gospel Records make it very clear that Jesus did many incredible things, but Jesus also said many incredible things. Sometimes He **PREACHED**, sometimes He spoke in **PARABLES**, and sometimes it was nothing more than **PERSONAL CONVERSATION**, but it was always truth that eventually resulted in transformed lives. I say eventually because most of the fruit of Jesus' preaching and teaching ministry took place after He ascended back to Heaven and sent His people forth to teach the things that He had told them as the Holy Spirit brought back to their memory what Jesus had said and helped them understand what they meant.

Over the next several weeks, we are going to take a look at the things that Jesus said and see not just what those truths were but how those same truths should change our lives as well.