

The One Who Did Not Sin Knew His Purpose: His Father's Business

I. Jesus' Purposeful Life

A. Jesus Knew From His Youth

Luke 2:41,42 “And His parents used to go 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”

Jesus was concerned with doing the will of His Father. They had gone to the feast in accordance with the Law. It was at 12 years old that Jewish boys became men and were responsible to the Law. They thought he was still with them, they did not realize that he was left behind.

Joseph might have thought that he was still with the women, as every year before, Mary might have thought that He would now be with the men, or that now he was responsible for himself to leave with the family.

Also there were many relatives and friends, and probably some of Joseph and Mary's other children. After going out a day they found out that he was not with them.

He was studying with the teachers of the Law. He is not the teacher, but a student. He said he had to be doing the things of the Father. 18 years later He would start His full time work doing His Father's work. But for now He is subject to His earthly parents.

Luke 2:49 “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?”

Many among us were fully grown before we learned about Jesus. Many have no spiritual upbringing when they were youths. Those who have such training have an advantage in overcoming sin.

Many children get to live in a spiritually minded family and have proper values set before them constantly by the word and by good examples.

B. He Dedicated His Life To It

1.) In All He Did

Jn. 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

Jesus didn't have to flounder around trying to find Himself, spend years figuring out what to do with his life, or trying to work our right from wrong. He knew – and so he did. Can we even imagine Jesus deciding to choose the life of sin instead of doing what He knew to be right?

2.) In All He Said

Neither did Jesus' words betray any indecision.

He knew what God said, and what God wanted said and so went about saying it.

Jn. 8:28 “Jesus therefore said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.”

Jn. 12:49 “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak.”

So all of His words were pure.

James 3:8 “But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.”

But Jesus did it.

1 Pet. 2:22 “WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH”

He knew what to say and what not to, and carried through on it.
and speaking of carrying things through...

3.) In How He Died

He gave Himself in the ultimate act of doing His Father's will.

Heb. 10:7-9 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE ROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO THY WILL, O GOD.'" "

8 After saying above, "SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN THOU HAST NOT DESIRED, NOR HAST THOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them" (which are offered according to the Law),

9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO THY WILL." He takes away the first in order to establish the second."

So is only fitting that Jesus taught us to pray the same thing.

Matt. 6:9,10 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

10 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

And that means in our life as well.

II. Our Need Of A Purposeful Life

A. We Have A Duty

Ecc. 12:13,14 "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."

What must I do to be saved and please God — this is what is important — not social activism, civil rights, nuclear weapons, is this war or that one a moral war, questions of evil and suffering and why bad things happens to good people.

Kingdom is spiritual. The social gospel is not. Philosophical musings are not.

It is concerned with man's temporal needs or intellectual musing,

God is concerned with the spiritual things of man.

Rom. 14:17 "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"

So seek this – not the vanities and trifles of this life.

Matt. 6:31-34 "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?'

32 For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

34 Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

B. Best To Be Taught While Young

Form these ideas and the good habits that go with them while young when they are more easily taken on. Before so much baggage is accumulated and life effecting decisions and relationships made.

Parents help your children.

Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Children get to it yourself.

Ecc. 12:1 "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them"

Jesus knew that He "had" to be about His Father's house - we need to take our children so that they will learn.

We have been us such an infinite variety choices on how we would live our lives. We can reach the heights of nobility or the depths of depravity by the course that we choose to steer out lives in. So many mistakes could be avoided if we'd just begun right.

So all of our schooling and cultural training should be subordinated to and endowed with this thought: that God is over all.

Our responsibility towards God should be taught at all times so that our lives and talents can bloom and be useful in the Lord's house.

Yes, understanding our purpose before God is a great advantage

It gives us incentive, direction and purpose.

We don't have to flounder around dwelling on the meaning of life, trying to find ourselves, make sense of it all, rediscover the wheel - we already know.

Timothy - taught young, guided well.

2 Tim. 3:14,15 "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them;

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Now even as Jesus declared himself to be entering into His Father's work, His parents were still viewing Him as a child.

They same may well have been true - or is true, or will be true - when we begin our walk with the Lord.

The parental view of us and our responsibilities and our view of these may well be in great conflict. We may feel that we are ready for so much more and they may not view us in that way yet.

But know these things for sure as that time of conflict comes:

- 1.) It is the parents duty to restrain, no matter what age and maturity, if evil is involved.
You are never mature enough for them to let you do wrong.
- 2.) If you are wanting to be involved in things that are not wrong, and still think that you are under too much restraint, remember Jesus - Think of His power and knowledge and He still submitted to His parents without complaint.
Jesus went back to no-where's-ville with them, and left the Temple..
Compare that to all the things you have had to submit to. How does it compare?
- 3.) Be dedicated more to good and you'll probably be amazed at the freedom you are given to do it.

C. Put It Into Practice

We must each have our own faith.

Rom. 14 speaks of people having their own opinions about things.

Rom. 14:4 "Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand."

Each must stand before God with their own faith and each must live out their own ideals.

We cannot have another do it for us.

Knowing is a great incentive to doing - but simply knowing is not doing.

Rom. 2:13 "for not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified."

D. Strive To Know

We need to know more so as to do more.

Jesus just knew, we have to study and be taught.

2 Tim. 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

2 Tim. 3:14-17 "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them;

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

He learned them from his mother and grandmother and from the word of God.

If we could just but pass on faith from generation to generation.

How many faithful parents and grandparents would do anything if they could just put a bit of faith into the offspring at this point in life.

But how many otherwise faithful people failed to teach their children while they were young?

Prov. 19:18 “Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.”

The only thing that we can give them as time and instruction and example.

Live a faith that they will want to know about.

Live a life that has depth, structure, purpose and meaning.

Yet also we know of many who overcome lack of faith, rebellion, opposition, even atheism of forefathers to become faithful.

At the end of the day you must decide to do and practice for yourself.

Others will be accountable for the good or evil that they did that influenced you, but your decision is your own.

Concl:

So, like Jesus let us live a purposeful life based on doing the business of the Father.

we can know, we have been instructed, it is of the utmost importance that we do it.

This will lead to the righteous life, not the life of sin.