

# Sermon Questions

June 16, 2024 | Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 (*Why were you looking for me?*)

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Note down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Core Questions

1. When has following Jesus confounded you?
2. When has following Jesus comforted you?
3. Mary sought to find *where* Jesus was in her distress, but Jesus' answer focused on *who* he is. How might this shift of focus help as we seek to understand confusing experiences in the Christian life?

## Inward Grace in Action

4. Jesus took on the whole of human experience. We often focus on his embrace of suffering when we think about this, but today we're reminded that he also took on the awkward and confusing parts of life, like being 12 years old. Which parts of your life seem to trivial or minor to be of concern to Jesus? How does Christ's incarnation dignify and address them?

## Outward Grace in Action

5. When you talk about your faith with people who don't share it, they will often ask you where God was in a moment of great distress. We can never answer that with certainty. How could a pivot to who God was in that situation change the conversation?

## Additional Resources

**Historical Theology:** Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390), one of the 'Greek Fathers,' wrote at length about the reality that Jesus *assumed* (took on) the whole of our humanity, and therefore *redeemed* the whole of our humanity. He was opposing teaching that Jesus was not truly a person, but simply God inhabiting or influencing a person. Read the excerpt below from *On God and Christ: The Five Theological Orations and Two Letters to Cledonius*. What difference does this make?

We do not part the human being from the Godhead; no, we affirm and teach one and the same God and Son, at first not man but alone and pre-eternal, unmixed with body and all that belongs to the body, but finally human being too, assumed for our salvation, the same passible in flesh, impassible in Godhead, bounded in body, boundless in spirit, earthly and heavenly, visible and known spiritually, finite and infinite: **so that by the same, whole man and God, the whole human being fallen under sin might be fashioned anew.**

Gregory of Nazianzus

## WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these

Scriptures:

- Joshua 1:1-9
- 1 Samuel 3
- Psalm 63
- Amos 9:11-15
- Galatians 4:1-7
- Hebrews 3:1-6

Serve: Who do you know who needs a long, complex conversation? Step into it this week.

Pray: Pray for our mission teams being sent out this summer.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund: [deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org](mailto:deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org)