

“Journeying of Jesus”
By Bob Heirtzler
Sunday, March 10th, 2013

The Theme for this month is, “The Path of Jesus.” Parrish shared with us last week. It’s really hard to put a message on “The Path of Jesus” into a forty minute sermon. There is a *lot* there. If you really read all of his notes from last week, you probably spent the entire week and still need more time to go over what was said. He taught us that, whoever this person was that was coming, he had to live up to all of those prophecies in the Old Testament; not just some of them—all of them.

Parrish left off when Jesus was in the Temple at twelve years old, and they were surprised by the knowledge that He had. Do you think that these doctors and degreed people knew who this was, standing right before them? They probably heard about the prophecies; they probably heard about this miraculous birth that happened twelve years ago, but, do you really think that knew who this young kid was? If somebody was going to be born into a royal family, do you think that they would choose a barn to be born in? God came in a humble way, to walk among us.

So, I’m going to begin when Jesus was twelve years old in the Temple. You realize that they were travelling, and they realized Jesus wasn’t with them, so they turned around and went back? They had gone a day’s journey, and turned around and headed back. They found Him talking to the doctors about their doctrine, and He was answering their questions. For all the young people, Jesus left a message for our young people, too (those that are below eighteen years old). ”

Luke 2:46-52 ...was subject unto them...

The part to the young people: He was subject unto them). He had to listen to His parents. The message is that Jesus did it, so that kids today can’t say, “See there? Jesus did what He wanted to do...” No, Jesus left a little message, to teach us to respect our parents.

What threw me off, preparing this message, was what went on between the time He was twelve years old and thirty years old. I got thirty years old because:

Luke 3:23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age...

I was thinking about it, and thinking about it, and it dawned on me, about two o’clock in the morning, He spoke in parables. A parable is a story—a true story, that happened—that we can use to teach a lesson. We hear it all the time in

the messages, and we also do it ourselves, to teach each other. So, what are some of the parables that Jesus taught? Anybody want to throw out some?

The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:3-8); the Parable of the Rich Man (Matthew 19:23-26); the Parable of the Virgins with the Lamps (Matthew 25:1-13); the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32); the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30); the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32); the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30); the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46); the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

If He was sharing actual stories in His messages, these could have happened during His teen years, or His twenties. He was sharing things that He experienced when he was growing up. It might be; it could be. It's just a thought, but He could have been sharing some things with us about His youth. We knew that He was a carpenter by trade, and we knew that He was around people that could share stories. I thought I'd just throw that out there; it's something to think about.

As we move on, we're going to go on to the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:13-17. The other references are: Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:2-34. The baptism of Jesus was so important that all four Gospels record it; we've got two and three and four witnesses of it. So, as we know the story, it says that Jesus was walking down the path, and John saw Him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." Jesus walked up, and said, "I need you to baptize Me." John's reaction was, "No, You need to baptize me." Jesus said, "No, I need to fulfill all righteousness." When Jesus got dunked in the water, and came back up, a Spirit that looked like a dove came down, and descended upon Him. He had to fulfill all righteousness.

Now, the meaning of baptism didn't come until a little later on. We read in Romans Chapter 6, it talks about what baptism represents. All that's ever been baptized, according to Romans 6,

Romans 6:3-5 ... we also should walk in newness of life...

Here's Jesus fulfilling all righteousness, and He doing it, actually for our testimony, for us to learn from Him that we need to get baptized too. And He was talking to Nicodemus, telling him, you can't get into the Kingdom of God without this.

John 3:1-5 ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

So, church family, we have entered into the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is within us. We put on His Name when we came up out of the water; the Spirit of

God is within us. Now, our job is to reach out to other people, with the Kingdom, to share with other people, to see the family grow. Noah and his wife's family grew, right? That's why we're all here. If they were wiped out, there'd be nobody here talking right now.

So, we know that He did that for a reason, to give us a greater understanding of the Spiritual Birth in Romans. Now, back in Matthew 4, (you can go so many directions with this thing). Let's go to 1 John 2:15-17 (keep your finger in Matthew 4, we're going to go back to that in a minute).

1 John 2:15-17 ... the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...

This Scripture came alive to me, because Jesus taught this when He was tempted in the wilderness:

Matthew 4:1-11 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness...

Matthew 4:1-11	1 John 2:15-16
Hungry... man shall not live by bread alone	Lust of the of the Flesh
Pinnacle of the temple, give charge to Angels	Pride of Life
High Mountain – show all the kingdoms of the World	Lust of the Eyes

It says that He used the Word of God to talk to Satan. Verses 1 through 4 was the lust of the flesh. Verses 5 through 7 was the pride of life. Verses 8 through 11 was the lust of the eyes. We need to know the word of God, when things come against us. We need to know the Word so that we can share the Word. We know that newborn babes in Christ, that's like the hardest time, when Satan hits them the hardest. Everything is thrown at us: Mine was my family, the Helm Club on the base, things that I did that I shouldn't do... Everything came against me, but I needed to know the Word to stand on, and the only thing that I knew was, **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”** (Mark 16:16) and that's what I stood on; that's all I knew at the time. So I needed to study the Word. It's more than just sitting here in the sanctuary—and I know you guys do this, you take the notes home and you study; that's encouraging—we've got to keep doing that. We get together on Wednesday nights and other nights and break bread and talk. *We've got to know the Word.* We need each other, we need fellowship, we need prayer time, sometimes we also need those quiet times in God when we have to sit at the feet of Jesus and get that strength. The other night I just wanted to be quiet; I got off late after a thirteen hour day, I just wanted quiet time. I went to the Olive Garden, I sat down, and I ended up talking to seven people. I walked out more

refreshed than I went in. I just wanted to sit and be quiet, and God just opened doors to talk, talk, talk, talk, talk. You know what the opening conversation was about? fishing. A grandmother turned around and said, “You fish?” and boy, I couldn’t get her to stop talking. I talked about the youth group; I talked about how I used to teach a class out at [Chain O’Lakes](#). She lives in Lindenhurst; I asked, “Do you know Mike and Mary Ogden?” She said, “Yeah, the name rings a bell.” I said, “She’s a retired Captain.” She said, “I think I do know her.” So, Mike and Mary may get some visitors; I didn’t catch their names, so, sorry... We’ve got to be that light wherever we go. Does that make sense?

Now, Jesus began to preach. He did this to show us what we need to do. We don’t have to wait until some special moment, we can start now. God’s called us to be that light.

Matthew 4:18-25 ... Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues...

It tells us that He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, and He saw two brothers, one named Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew. He told them, “Drop your nets; follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They dropped everything and went. Jesus continued to walk on, and came across James and John; they were in their ship with their father, mending their nets. He called them, and they left the ship, and their father, and followed Him. Here’s Jesus, a perfect stranger, He walks up, and four guys just automatically follow. That tells me, that tells us, that the Spirit of God was resting thickly upon Jesus at the time.

I’ve seen people, “Hey, you need to get baptized in Jesus’ name,” and they said, “Okay,” and they did it right away. Then you’ve got people that need to understand a little bit more. Some takes time, some just say okay. I was one that said okay. A week later I got a Bible Study on baptism; Jim Ottoson gave it. Something about that message that night, I just knew it was right, and I walked up and got baptized.

In verses 23 and 24, it says that He healed all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. That same Spirit that was in Jesus is in us. We have all kinds of people come to us that need healing, too. We have alcoholism going on today; we have drug addiction going on today; a list of things going on and on and on. We have to be there for them. It could be 9:00 in the morning, putting gas in your car; it could be 6:00 at night at Jewell. It could be somebody looking for that light. It could be us, and they’re drawn to us. God says, “Go talk to that person.”

One day, I was fishing... Fishing was my god, and I had to let it go. I gave away all of my gear, all my tackle, all my rods and reels... I had to let my god go, for twenty years. What’s Pastor Lantis preached a message about having a

ministry in your ministry, and I wanted to teach the kids how to fish, just like my dad taught me. At that time, kids didn't have anything to do; they were just playing in the street. It gave them something to do. Where I'm going with this is, I said, "God, if this is real, then I need to know, because I don't want this to become my God again." God spoke to a young lady (she had been praying, "Where is God?") so God woke her up at 6:00 in the morning, and said, "Get up, go to Wadsworth Road, at the Des Plaines river, and you'll meet a man that can tell you about God." She came to church the next day, and that's when she told us, "I had been praying and God told me to go fishing. One of the most ridiculous answers I ever had... We can't have our little gods come in between us and our God. We've got to separate things.

The Sermon on the Mount ripped me apart when I first read it, years ago. I'm going to pick a few Scriptures from chapters 5, 6 and 7. I realize that Matthew 5:1-16 we hear about all the time. This is like a check-off list.

Matthew 5:1-16 ...**Blessed are they that...**

That's all I heard, but, when I kept reading on, it got really personal. It's not just me as a Temple, well, yes it is, but it's us as the Body of Christ. We have to check off this list and make sure that we're not doing the things that the list says we're not supposed to be doing.

Matthew 5:17 ...**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets...**

Jesus came to fulfill law & prophets, not to destroy them.

Matthew 5:20 ...**except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees...**

I knew when to come to church; I knew when to raise my hands; I knew when to pray; I knew when to clap; I knew when to sing, but my heart wasn't in it. My righteousness has to exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees, or my righteousness has to exceed the religious people of today. There's a lot of religions out there today, but there's only one true God.

I kept reading:

Matthew 5:21-23 ...**whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...**

Now it's getting personal. Now I'm not responsible just for my actions, but I'm responsible for my actions *and* for my thought process. As I kept reading:

Matthew 5:23-24 ... be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

I do my best to make sure the sun doesn't go down at the end of the day if I offended somebody and I have to chase somebody down. If I offend Jimmie, then he's going to get a call from me. If he doesn't answer his phone, then he's going to get a knock on the door. If he doesn't answer the door, then I'll kick the door in. If he's not at home, then I'm going to hunt him down. If I've offended Donna, then I'm going to call her until I get her. That's just the way I am. I don't want to let the sun go down, and wake up the next day with that on my heart. I realize that there have been some scenarios with my own natural family where I wasn't able to do that, but God will know that I did my part, and they've got to do their part, too. So God didn't hold that against me, because I did my part.

Matthew 5:27-28 ... to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

This Scripture came alive to me this morning, it's not a natural thing; it's more of a spiritual thing. Spiritual adultery is one of those little gods that tries to come between me and my God. That's why I had to let fishing go; to me, fishing was committing adultery, because I was loving something else besides God. I had to let it go. It could be a car, it could be a stereo system, it could be an F-150, it could be anything. I realize that we can't allow that stuff, not just me personally, but us, as the Body of Christ, God doesn't want us to be like another ministry; God wants us to be this ministry. God wants us to become the largest Jesus' Name church in the world. He doesn't want us to be like the mega-churches. Jimmie and I went to one for a seminar one time (I think it was you and I) and they just get together on Sundays, but you could tell there was no fellowship among them during the week. That's what I like about this ministry here, there's fellowship 24-7. Any time of any day I can call somebody. There, you call, and you hear the answering machine, "I'll get back to you later."

Matthew 5:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye...

That was my favorite Scripture, man; somebody hit me in the eye, I hit them back. They took my tooth, I took theirs. Somebody broke my arm, then I broke theirs. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

Matthew 5:39 ... right cheek, turn to him the other also...

Man! That's a rough one, but I've got to do it. And then verse 43 was a good one for me, too.

Matthew 5:43-44 ...Love your enemies...

Enemies, with an 's' at the end of it; so, all your enemies, not just one of them. I used to pray to God to come down and kick their tails. Pray for them. We, as a ministry, we can't have this floating in our veins. If we have this floating in our veins it will keep us from doing what God wants us to do.

Matthew 6:1-8 ...when thou prayest, enter into thy closet...

Pastor Paine talked about this a few weeks ago, keeping your prayer life to yourself, so that Jesus can reward you openly. I know there's a lot of testimonies in this room here we've burned the midnight oil and God has answered prayer. Jimmie, you're up front, so I'm picking on you: Your wife prayed to God for a sign, and then you woke up from a coma, opened your eyes, and smiled at her, and then closed your eyes again. That was all she needed. God does answer our prayers. It's not a microwave process *now*, it could be a crock pot process. The Bible tells us that Paul asked God three times to remove something (2 Corinthians 12:7-10), and God said, "You need that to stay humble." He answered no, but God does answer prayer. Any witnesses in this room?

Parrish talked about the Lord's Prayer, so I'm not going to spend time there, but they asked, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Matthew 6:9-13 Our Father...

Verse 24 refers back to the adultery part:

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters...

We can't sit on the fence post every day, and say, which way do I go? The Bible teaches us in James that a double-minded man is unstable in—what?—all his ways, right? (James 1:8) We've got to serve God *only*. There's only two choices: God or Satan. So this is a check-off list for me, but as I keep going through, verse 33 says:

Matthew 6:33 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness...

Greg Greshen shared a story, last winter, it was during that blizzard, he was doing everything, but he said, “If I had prayed *first*, I would have been given the answer, ‘Call the Navy’” and the Navy showed up and rescued his co-workers. Sometimes we can’t allow God to be last on the list. Moses is a perfect example: Every time something happened, he dropped to his knees and started praying. Every time. When he got an answer, then he got up and stood firm.

Matthew 7:1-5 Judge not, that ye be not judged...

So many times I’ve been guilty of correcting another person and I’ve been guilty of it, too. It’s not a comfortable feeling. We’ve got to help each other out. A lot of times when I’ve judged somebody else for what they were doing, I was guilty of it, too. Then I realized that I can’t have that in my heart; it’s all about action, now. It’s on the outside, but the inside has to be right. If you don’t know the scenario, then ask. If I see something happening that doesn’t make sense to me... If I see Jeff back there pull a stunt, and I say, “Parrish, did you see Jeff...” I should’ve went to Jeff! If I say, “Donna, I saw Sonya was cooking...” I should’ve went to Sonya! Nature teaches us that if this person tells that person tells the other person, pretty soon, people are thinking Sonya’s a bad person, because I made the wrong decision. Our words become like weights, we have to watch what we say.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find...

The word shall means it will come to pass. Should means it could. Shall’s pretty much, it’s going to happen. If you ask, seek, knock, you’re going to find it. You might not find it today. Parrish shared last week about a woman that stopped praying. You should keep praying for things that you aspire to do. You should keep praying; it’ll come to pass. For example: What does Bill Blackwell want to do? Buy an RV and travel around the country spreading the Gospel. He’s still praying for that. If he strongly believes, and I know he does, it will happen. He’s still seeking; he hasn’t given up on that dream. You’ve got to ask, seek, knock, kick the door in, it’s going to happen.

Matthew 7:9 ...if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?...

We don’t want to be in that category. We want to give our best to God. We need to help each other out with what we have.

Matthew 7:24-27 ...a wise man, which built his house upon a rock...

The rock is Christ. If you listen to chapters five six, and seven, and apply it, He will liken you to a wise man or woman. For those that don't, those are the ones that build their house upon the sand. We know that Hurricane Sandy (how fitting!) hit the shoreline of New Jersey—some of our families were affected by that—there's a lot of sand that's *waaay* up the street from the beach along the coastline. That tells us that if the storm hits us, and we're built on the sand, then we're not going to last. The lighthouses that were built on the rock are still there, shining the light. We're the lighthouse, and we're on the Rock, and we're shining the Light.

Matthew 7:28-29 ... he taught them as one having authority...

When we stand on the Word of God, we speak with authority. We don't talk like religious folks talk, we're the real McCoy. We're true Christians, that stand on the Word. Back in the Ekco days, they were so mad at us, because we all preached the same thing. We didn't quote our pastor, or our Sunday School teacher, we quoted the Word of God. When we got there, they had their own separate corners. I won't name the religions, but one religion was in that corner, and one was in that corner, one had the study in that corner, and one had the study in that corner; I mean, they're all over the place during lunch time. When God's people arrived, they started grouping together against us. This man got fired, and I said, "Why did you fire my friend Jimmie?" "He was two minutes late getting back from break." I said, "Really? But you told Brian and Sharon, they came in drunk, you told them to sleep it off in the back room for two hours, so what's the difference." That's the day that the supervisor and I became enemies. Greg Bozarth was working there, and there was this one guy who asked Greg something, and he didn't like that message, so he went to the next guy, and he got the same message. So he went down to the next person, and he got the same message. One day I got surrounded by seven of the same religion, and every one of them believed in something different. I went around, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom; God just moved. I said, "Your house is divided. You're not in agreement" Our house is undivided, because we're standing on the Word of God. You can't go wrong. Mark Twain said if you always tell the truth, then you don't have to remember nothing.

Now I'm moving to Matthew chapter 10:

Mathew 10:1 ... he gave them power against unclean spirits...

Matthew 10:7-8 ...as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand...

He's already commissioned us to go; we don't have to wait for anybody, just communicate, that's important. We're commissioned to go and preach. We were sitting at It's All Good coffee shop one Sunday night, and we were thinking, "We need to get something going. We want to have fellowship here on Sunday nights." The owner said, "No, you can come Wednesday's—I'll give it to you free, because I want you folks here." Ever since we got that set up, though, everything has come against us. Work schedule, sickness, there's always something. Thank God, though, there's always been someone there to run it.

When Pat Taylor, Jay Hunemuller, Cedric Christian, and I did Headline Talk at Emily's Pancake House, we picked four of us, so that there would be two of us, in case of conflicts. Sometimes it was just one, but at least someone was there. So, don't wait, move forward. I was talking with a brother before service, who said, "You know what we ought to do?". I said, "What are you waiting for?" Don't wait—do it now. Then it can come full circle, and you can teach other people how to do it. Just move forward. They had a meeting two weeks ago, and now they're doing things, amen. Get going. Do it. If the ladies go out to do whatever it is that the ladies do... You know, what happened yesterday? I went out to Bass Pro Shop, I spent two hours there, and walked out, and I did not buy anything; that's a miracle. We did talk to a lot of people. I didn't buy anything. I had things in my hands, but I put them back. I promised God, no. "Oh, I really need tis, but, no, put it back on the shelf."

Matthew 10:9-10 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses...

Use what you have got. I started a fishing ministry a long time ago. It's been a great too for me. That's why Andy sometimes joins me, sometimes Jesse, sometimes Sonya, sometimes Brent... I know there's people that know how to bowl in this ministry. There' people that know how to play volleyball, there's people that know how to play horseshoes... There's so many activities that we can get involved in. We all like to drink coffee. Organic tea, if you're like Kirk.

Matthew 10:11-14 ...if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it...

Respect where you are. It teaches us that not everyone is going to hear what we have to say. We have to have the mentality to say, "Next," or go on to the next person. God will cultivate that ground; you've got to trust that God does deal with everybody that we come in contact with. He wants everybody to make it to Heaven. There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun. His desire is for everybody

to make it to Heaven, so don't give up on those people, keep them in prayer. It'll come full circle; you'll talk to them again.

My closing scripture here:

Matthew 10:19-20 it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

God will give us words to speak. Don't worry about it. If God's moving in your life, and you have an opportunity or a question comes up, then God's going to fill your mouth with those words to share. Of course, for that to happen, we have to have our house built on the solid rock, we have to have a testimony of ourselves; we can't be wishy-washy jellyfishy with no backbone. We've got to have that strong testimony in God so that people will come to us and talk to us. Everybody in this room God can use. There's not one person He can't use in this room. Everybody that's home sick today, God can use. It's not that there's this person on this list, and this other person on this other list, no, we're all part of the family.

