



Sunday, March 22nd

Preacher: Rev. LaTasha Morgan

Sermon Title: Stay With Me

Scripture: Luke 2:41-51 (NIV)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Sermon Summary:

In pleasant and unpleasant times, Jesus is the answer to navigating life. This is a #fact for most believers. However, we must admit that there are times when, for whatever reason, we do not solely rely on Him. Times when we fail to apply the principles and demonstrations of God's word to our own situations. As we focus on this month's theme: SEEK, it is my prayer that this text uncovers several challenging life events that could easily be replaced with situations in our own reality, a few thoughtful take-a-ways for us and some necessary re-positioning within us (at least, it did for me as I studied and sought the Lord concerning this message). All necessary so that as believers, we do not under-utilize the most powerful resource we have in Jesus and that we do not under-estimate the value of our relationship with Him. So, no matter what it looks, feels, seems like- be encouraged and stay with Him!

Life Application Questions:

1. Knowing what we know about Jesus Christ and what we have experienced as a result of our relationship with Him, can you pinpoint why in certain cases you have gone ahead in life without Jesus?
 - a. Are there identifiable distractions that caused you to do so?
 - b. If so, what steps can you/have you taken to remove the distractions?
2. How long before you realized Jesus was not as near as times before? What did that feel like? What happened as a result of it?
3. Have you ever been afraid to ask for help? What is at the root of this fear?
4. When's the last time you have taken a look at your support group? How would you determine if these are healthy or toxic relationships?

Spirit Work:

1. Rev. Morgan taught us that, "more important than saving face, is saving grace." Consider the areas of life you have struggled to ask for help in because you wanted to "save face." How can the message of God's grace help you to grow in honesty and transparency? As this pandemic season may open up more time for phone or in-person conversation with trusted friends or family, identify one confidant you can share this new found honesty with.
2. *Pandemic Prayer Circle*. The sermon reminded us that we need a prayer circle to surround us and walk with us through life. In this season where many of us are suffering from feelings of isolation, anxiety, and stress, it's so crucial to maintain a circle of prayer-focused relationships. Whether you communicate via a conference call, video chat, or group text, be sure to identify some prayer partners to walk with you in this time. Remember it's not about the size of your circle, it's all about the consistency of your commitment. Now more than ever, "pray without ceasing."