

HAVE YOU MET MY JESUS? PART II

Text: Luke 2:40

Key Word: Jesus

Key Thought: Jesus Has Shown Himself in a Variety of Indispensable Characteristics

What Are Some of the Indispensable Characteristics of Jesus?

I. HE EXPRESSES THE FAVOUR OF GOD - (Luke 2:40)

II. HE EXPRESSES THE FULNESS OF GOD - (Ephesians 3:14-21)

III. HE EXPRESSES THE FREEDOM OF GOD - (Isaiah 61:1-3)

I. HE EXPRESSES THE FAVOUR OF GOD - (Luke 2:40)

“The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.”

Luke 2:40

No one who has even taken a glance at the Scriptures would deny the fact that Jesus walked in the favour of His heavenly Father. During His baptism, Jesus heard the approval of His Father saying He was well pleased with Him. Everything Jesus ever did or said was always in the favour of His heavenly Father. Not once did He sway from the beaten track.

Just think of how you would feel if God broke through the silence of the heavens and proclaimed that He was pleased with you! I want you to know that He has. His voice of pleasure came through in the pages of history and is still speaking loud and clear today to those who walk in His way. **Calvary proved that God believed in pouring His favour upon us who surrender their will to Him.**

There is an incredible release that comes when we sense the favour of God in our lives. And it is God's desire to pour out His favour upon us. It is so easy to place a burden of guilt and remorse on each other.

One man in the Old Testament constantly walked in the approval of God. **Han'niel** (*the favour of God*), son of Ephod and prince of Manasseh (Number 34:23). Every time his name was called out, the message of approval also echoed through the corridors of his home or wherever he was.

David enjoyed God's favour (Acts 7:46). Inasmuch that God allowed him to gather all the gold, silver, bronze, precious metal, linen etc. for his son Solomon to build the temple. God also showed His favour to David and his soldiers during his many battles.

I. HE EXPRESSES THE FAVOUR OF GOD - (Luke 2:40) (Contd.)

“God’s blessing rests upon the house of the righteous. The treasure that is in such a house is undoubtedly the righteousness that becomes at once a sign and a pledge of abiding prosperity. Whatever riches the wicked may pile up, he shall never be truly rich; for he has no part in the true riches, the righteousness and favor of God (cf. Luke 16:11).”

Jerry Falwell, executive editor
Edward E. Hinson and Michael Kroll Woodrow, general editors
*KJV Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed.,
Logos Library System, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1994*

The statement that **Daniel prospered** also has reference to far more important things than material wealth. **Daniel possessed the favour of God and men, wisdom, longevity, faithfulness, godly convictions, and steadfastness in prayer.** What an example of God’s true prosperity. These are things that money cannot purchase. Jesus not only enjoyed these blessings, but also will everyone who has set their heart on following after the will of God.

II. HE EXPRESSES THE FULNESS OF GOD - (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Much can be said and needs to be said about the fulness of God. **Oh that the Church of Christ would walk in the fulness of the Lord.** We so often accept a condition much less than what God has had in store for us.

*For this reason I kneel before the Father,
15. from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.
16. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
17. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
18. may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
19. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
20. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
21. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:14-21

II. HE EXPRESSES THE FULNESS OF GOD - (Ephesians 3:14-21) (Contd.)

What does it mean to be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God? We've all seen a measuring cup. They are divided into at least a 1/4 cup; 1/2 cup/ 3/4 cup and full. When you reach the measure of full, it means that you cannot get anymore into the cup.

Jesus was so filled with the measure of His Father that He overflowed into the lives of those whom He came into contact with. He couldn't be anymore full of God than He was. God is still looking for people who are willing to be filled with Him to overflowing. These people have been found in the past and WILL be found today as well

“In the summer of 1871 two women of Dwight L. Moody's congregation felt an unusual burden to pray for Moody *“that the Lord would give him the baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire.”* Moody would see them praying in the front row of his church and he was irritated. But soon he gave in and in September began to pray with them every Friday afternoon. He felt like his ministry was becoming a sounding brass with little power. On November 24th, 1871 Moody's church building was destroyed in the great Chicago fire. He went to New York to seek financial help. Day and night he would walk the streets desperate for the touch of God's power in his life.

“Then suddenly - one day, in the city of New York -- oh, what a day! -- I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name . . . I can only say that God revealed himself to me, and I had such an experience of his love that I had to ask him to stay his hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world -- it would be small dust in the balance.”

W. R. Moody
“The Life of D. L. Moody”
New York: 1900, p. 149

II. HE EXPRESSES THE FULNESS OF GOD - (Ephesians 3:14-21) (Contd.)

John White, the psychiatrist and missionary and author, tells us of his experience of the Spirit's manifestation:

On one occasion it was as I prayed with the elders and deacons in my home. I had tried to teach them what worship was . . . We then turned to prayer. Perhaps partly to be a model to them I began to express worship, conscious of the poverty of my words. **Then suddenly I saw in front of me a column of flame of about two feet in width. It seemed to arise from beneath the floor and to pass through the ceiling of the room. I knew -- without being told -- knew by some infallible kind of knowing that transcended the use of my intellect, that I was in the presence of the God of holiness.** In stunned amazement I watched a rising column of flames in our own living room, while my brothers remained with their heads quietly bowed and their eyes closed . . .

I felt that I was in the presence of reality and that my brothers were asleep. For years afterward I never spoke of the incident. The others who were present could not have perceived the **blend of stark terror and joy** that threatened to sweep me away. How could I live and see what I saw? **Garbled words of love and of worship tumbled out of my mouth as I struggled to hang onto my self-control. I was no longer trying to worship; worship was undoing me, pulling me apart. And to be pulled apart was both terrifying and full of glory.**

John White
"When the Spirit Comes with Power"
pp. 87-88

III. HE EXPRESSES THE FREEDOM OF GOD - (Isaiah 61:1-3)

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
2. to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,
3. and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”*

Isaiah 61:1-3

Jesus expressed the freedom of the Lord to everyone He came into contact with. The crowds could easily sense that Jesus was free in His Spirit.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

II Corinthians 3:17

I am so thankful that Jesus didn’t keep this freedom strictly for Himself. He wanted all of His people to experience the blessing of being free. It was never intended to be a temporary freedom. We can be either free or bound - it’s our choice how we wish to live.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1

Jesus was so full of the freedom of God that He was able to pour out that freedom upon the Church. It was given in such a way that it would spread throughout the Church. It was never meant to be enjoyed by a select few.

III. HE EXPRESSES THE FREEDOM OF GOD - (Isaiah 61:1-3) (Contd.)

*“his intent was that **now**, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,
11. according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
12. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”*

Ephesians 3:10-12

Freedom can be a dangerous blessing. We must guard against allowing it to be used in a wrong manner.

“Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.”

I Corinthians 8:9

“Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.”

I Peter 2:16

“Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. **Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.**”

Peter Marshall

Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.,
Chaplain of the United States Senate
Spoke these words before the U.S. Senate

What Were Some of the Indispensable Characteristics of Jesus?

I. HE EXPRESSED THE FAVOUR OF GOD - (Luke 2:40)

II. HE EXPRESSED THE FULNESS OF GOD - (Ephesians 3:14-21)

III. HE EXPRESSED THE FREEDOM OF GOD - (Isaiah 61:1-3)

C:\My Documents\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.23\Jesus\Luke2_40.wpd

Date: Oct 22/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Once Again - Eb

HAVE YOU MET MY JESUS? PART II

Text: Luke 2:40

Key Word: Jesus

Key Thought: Jesus Has Shown Himself in a Variety of Indispensable Characteristics

What Are Some of the Indispensable Characteristics of Jesus?

I. HE EXPRESSES THE FAVOUR OF GOD - (Luke 2:40) - Acts 7:46

II. HE EXPRESSES THE FULNESS OF GOD - (Ephesians 3:14-21)

**III. HE EXPRESSES THE FREEDOM OF GOD - (Isaiah 61:1-3) - II Corinthians 3:17
Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 3:10-12; I Corinthians 8:9; I Peter 2:16**