

New Covenant Presbyterian Church - PCA

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April 21, 2013

Prelude

Choral Introit

Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship

*Hymn No. 278 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Responsive Reading

The Anthem

The Doxology

Sermon

Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

THREE STEPS LEADING TO GOD'S FAVOR

Luke 2:41-52

*Hymn No. 358 *I Am Thine O Lord* (verses 1, 3, 4)

*The Offering of Thanks and Praise

*The Offertory

Sermon continued

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 496 *He Hideth My Soul* (verses 1 & 2)

Sermon concluded

Song of Response

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

*Postlude

THREE STEPS LEADING TO GOD'S FAVOR

Luke 2:41-52

- I. Review: Last week we looked at the importance of both special days and normal years. (Luke 2:21-40)
- II. Today we will see three key ingredients of the normal years: (2:41-52) ... or: *Three steps leading to God's favor.*

STEP 1 The significance of 'spiritual customs' (41-42)

- Worship (corporate, family, and private)
(Singing, praise, testimony)
- Bible Study (in groups and alone)
- Prayer (with others and alone with God)
- Sacraments (corporately observed)
- 'Body Life' (Christian love in action - application of the 'one another' passages of Scripture)

Parental oversight: (43-45)

(Point: Jesus' parents were not omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, or responsible – i.e. they were not God.) (43-45)

STEP 2 The importance of 'spiritual education.' (46-50)

- Jesus "listened and asked questions"
- Jesus also possessed a 'spiritual discernment.'
(Reflection on his parents' instructions)

STEP 3 The value of 'spiritual submission to the Law.' (51-52)

¹²"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

- Jesus was obedient.
- Mary still treasuring up all these things.
- Jesus found favor with God ... and with men.

Prelude
Choral Introit
Welcome and Announcements
The Call to Worship
*Hymn No. 278 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God
He whose word cannot be broken, Formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal Love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters, And all fear of want remove,
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver, Never fails from age to age!

Round each habitation hovering, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, Showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
Save they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

Responsive Reading

P: ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

C: ⁵ **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

P: ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut. 6:4-9)

C: ⁶ **Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.** (Prov. 22:6)

P: ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)

The Anthem
The Doxology
Sermon

Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

THREE STEPS LEADING TO GOD'S FAVOR

Luke 2:41-52

*Hymn No. 358 *I Am Thine, O Lord* (vs 1, 3, 4)

I am Thine, O Lord—I have heard Thy voice,
and it told Thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith
and be closer drawn to Thee.

Chorus:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where Thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer,
nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side.

O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend,
when I kneel in prayer and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend.

Chorus (see above)

There are depths of love that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy
that I may not reach till I rest in peace with Thee.

Chorus:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where Thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer,
nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side.

*The Offering of Thanks and Praise

*The Offertory

Sermon continued

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 496 *He Hideth My Soul* (verses 1 & 2)

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life with the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away;
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved,
He giveth me strength as my day.

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life with the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

Sermon concluded

Song of Response No 358 I am Thine O Lord refrain

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,

to the cross where Thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer,
nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side.

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

*Postlude