

Six Questions in Life for Young People

Lesson Text: **Luke 2:46**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In the days of youth there seems to be no end of being asked questions.
1. Your parents ask them.
 2. Your relatives ask them.
 3. Your friends ask them
 4. Your teachers ask them.
 5. Your coaches ask them.
 6. Your neighbors ask them.
 7. Your employers ask them.
 8. You ask yourself questions.
 - a. Why would I every want to date _____? I will leave it to you feel in that blank.
 - b. What am I going to wear Saturday night?
 - c. What am I going to tell mom and dad?
- B. You will never live long enough to outgrow asking and answering questions.
1. In youth . . . there are questions.
 2. In School . . . there are questions.
 3. In college & graduate school . . . there are questions.
 4. In dating . . . there are questions.
 5. In the engagement period . . . there are questions.
 6. In marriage . . . there are questions.
 7. In a professional career . . . there are questions.
 8. Even in religion . . . there are questions.
- C. **Luke 2:46** - "Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions."
1. Jesus is 12 years old on the occasion of Luke 2:46.
 2. Throughout His life and ministry, He both asked questions and answered questions.

SIX QUESTIONS OF LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

A. What kind of son or daughter will I be?

1. The world says, "You are only young once so enjoy it in every way you can.
 - a. This is easy for most to accept because they want freedom from restraints.

- b. Nonetheless, the Bible says in **Ecclesiastes 12:1** - "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them."
 - c. The days of youth are a special time in the total sojourn of a life lived on this earth.
 - d. Once gone, they will never return.
2. One of the great efforts put forth during youth should be that of be obedient to and having consideration for your parents.
 - a. **Ephesians 6:1-3** - "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."
 - b. **Proverbs 10:1** - "The Proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother."
 - c. **Proverbs 17:20, 25** - "He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil . . . A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him."
 3. Parents are not as some think - just old fogies trying to keep them from having a good time - but are mature and experienced in many of life's problems.
 - a. It is wise for young people to heed the advice of their parents.
 - b. **Proverbs 13:1** - "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."

B. What kind of character shall I develop?

1. **Ecclesiastes 7:1** - "A good name is better than precious ointment . . ."
2. **Proverbs 22:1** - "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold."
3. Friends, it takes no planting . . . it takes no watering . . . it takes no cultivating to grow weeds . . . nor does it take effort to grow worthless character.
 - a. Careful attention and diligent effort are required for noble character.
 - b. Reputation is what people think you are . . . character is what you really are.
4. Young people, strive to build a good reputation by purity and godliness and by being an example to the believers (Christians).
 - a. **1 Timothy 4:12** - "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. "
 - b. Those who teach by their doctrine must also teach by their lives, else they pull down with one hand what they build up with the other.
 - c. The Holy Spirit guided Paul to tell the young man Timothy to:

1. "In example" - How one conducts himself . . . be a good and right example.
2. "In word" - How one conducts his conversation.
3. "In love" - Love for God and proper love for others.
4. "In spirit" - Spiritual mindedness. Be spiritual minded.
5. "In faith" - The profession of the Christian faith. Share it with others.
6. "In purity" - Chastity . . . morally clean and pure.
- 7.

C. Whom shall I choose as my associates?

1. Paul warns in **1 Corinthians 15:33** - "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits."
 - a. The ASV renders the passage as "Evil companionships corrupt good morals."
 - b. The message is clear . . . choosing to be around bad people with influence you to be bad.
2. The converse of this is also true: God companionships promote good morals.
3. Young people should avoid the crowd that drinks, tells dirty jokes and stories, uses curse words, and laughs and pokes fun at people who serve God. You do not need people like that.

D. What will be my life's occupation?

1. Much depends on the answer to this question.
 - a. In far too many instances too much emphasis is placed on money.
 - b. Jesus asked in **Matthew 16:26** - "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"
2. Furthermore, one must be careful to choose an occupation that is honorable and legitimate.
 - a. Dishonest gains and get rich quick schemes must be avoided at all times and at all costs.
 - b. There is no such thing as a truly "free lunch."
 - c. When something sounds too good to be true . . . it probably isn't really true.
3. This may mean a smaller income. However, listen to the inspired wisdom of Solomon:
 - a. **Proverbs 15:16** - "Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble."
 - b. **Proverbs 16:8** - " Better is a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice."

E. Whom shall I marry?

1. If there is ever a place for clear minds and true ideas, it is in marriage.

- a. God's laws for marriage, family, and home must be understood.
 - b. God's laws for marriage, family, and home must be respected.
 - c. God's laws for marriage, family, and home must be heeded . . . obeyed.
2. Contrary to what you may have been taught or continue to witness in our society, marriage IS for life.
 - a. **Romans 7:2-3** - "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man."
 - b. **1 Corinthians 7:39** - "A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord."
 3. The best advice I can give to our youth about choosing a mate is . . . marry a Christian.
 - a. Marry someone who will help you be what God would have you to be.
 - b. Marry someone who will help you, rather than prevent you, reach Heaven.
 - c. Marry someone who will help you in the way of salvation.
 4. Just a word of caution . . . if that boy or girl cannot be converted before marriage, they probably never will be, and problems are only multiplied when children come along.

F. **What shall I do with my life in relation to God?**

1. If you have never obeyed the gospel, you should ask and answer this question: "Shall I become a Christian?" . . . "Will I become a Christian?"
2. Jesus said in **Luke 9:26** - "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed . . ."
3. If you are already a Christian, you should ask and answer this question: "Will I remain faithful?"
 - a. It is easy to leave home and leave God.
 - b. Listen to our Lord speak in **Matthew 24:12-13** - "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."
 - c. When the time comes for you to leave home, don't leave God behind . . . Take Him with you. Go with God.

CONCLUSION:

- A. How will you answer the six questions we have examined?
 1. What kind of son or daughter will I be?
 2. What kind of character will I develop?

3. Whom will I choose as my associates?
 4. What will be my life's occupation?
 5. Whom shall I marry?
 6. What shall I do with my life in relation to God?
- B. Your answers will determine more than the quality of life you will live here, it will determine the quality of your eternal existence as well.
1. It seems that every year we have young people who leave the homes in this congregation and make their way to college, or the military, or to begin some type of employment.
 - a. This year will be no different.
 - b. The last Christmas before moving.
 - c. The last birthday before moving.
 - d. The last a lot of things before moving.
 2. Time marches on . . . and so do people of all ages.
- C. Let me ask you another question . . . "Are you a Christian?"
- D. **ILLUSTRATION:** The Man Who Takes the Son Gets Everything."

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Viet Nam War broke out, the son went to war. He was a very courageous individual and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified of his son's death, and a period of deep grieving began.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me. But I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart. He died instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art. The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes swelled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me . . . it's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The father died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their own collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel, "We will start the bidding with this picture of the Son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence.

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted, "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100 . . . \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily, "We didn't come here to see this painting. We came here to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued, "The son! The Son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting of the son.. Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will make it \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10.. Let's see the masters." \$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once . . . twice . . . SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel, "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "What about the paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. **The man who took the son . . . gets everything!**"

God gave His Son almost 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is . . . "The Son, the Son, who will take the Son?" **Because . . . you see . . . He who takes the Son . . . gets everything.**"

E. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation.**