

**Cultivating our Appetite for God**  
**Inquiring**  
**Psalm 27, Luke 2:41-52**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** God is an acquired taste. Routinely inquiring at his appointed places is part of how we cultivate our appetite for him.

**I) Why hungering for God is not natural to us**

**A) Because we are embodied and he is not**

**B) Because the world we live in is hard, often obscuring God**

David's world in Psalm 27

Jesus' parents did not understand his hunger for God

**C) Because we do not naturally want God**

Being creatures is unpalatable to us

**II) One way to cultivate our appetite for God: Daily inquiring**

**A) The habit in David, Jesus' parents, and Jesus**

- 1) David: *Psalm 27.4: One thing I have asked...That I may dwell all the days of my life...to gaze...to inquire*
- 2) Jesus' parents: *Luke 2.41-42: ...every year...according to custom...When the feast was ended...*
- 3) Jesus: *Luke 2.46, 47: ...listening...asking questions...answering questions*
  - Not playing rabbi
  - Not showing divinity
  - A real boy—one of us, showing us how to live

**B) What are we to learn and do?**

- 1) Show up regularly at the place of inquiry
- 2) Ask our questions, and encourage our children and others to do the same

**III) Daily inquiring after Jesus**

**A) Mary and Joseph show the way**

**B) Meaning for us**

Jesus questions our pluralism and skepticism

**C) Bringing our questions to Jesus**

## Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) There are numerous reasons why we find it hard to pray and to meditate on the Bible regularly: (a) We are embodied and God is not, (b) life's difficulties often obscure God, (c) our hearts tend not to want him. How do each these reasons affect you in your approach to God.
- 2) What evidence do you find in Psalm 27 and Luke 2:41-52 for the pattern of habitually drawing near to God by David, Jesus' parents, and Jesus? What habits of drawing near to God are in your life? What might you do to improve them?
- 3) Both Luke 2 and Psalm 27 speak of asking questions as integral to meeting God. What sorts of questions do you, by your actual practice, treat as 'off limits' in your relationship with God? Why? Do you think God considers them off limits? Why? Why not?
- 4) List the questions that are either explicit or implicit in Psalm 27 and Luke 2:41-52. How do they correspond to the questions you find yourself asking?
- 5) Why is it OK (even important) to tell our friends and children when we do not know the answer to a question they are asking us?
- 6) Jesus' mother asks Jesus a question in Luke 2. What is that question, what is Jesus' answer to it, and what effect does his answer have on her?
- 7) Why does it make sense to bring to Jesus all of our questions?