

# LUKE - Part 11 - Brackets of Sonship



*Luke 2:49 - "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"*

*Luke 3:22 - and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

In this passage of Luke we are seeing the bracketing of Jesus' relationship with His heavenly Father. In keeping with Jewish customs at twelve years old Jesus defines what his life is going to be about, showing his apprenticeship to His heavenly Father, opening the brackets of sonship by stating "didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" This bracketing closes in Luke 3:22 with God the Father declaring over his son Jesus, "You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

In between the brackets of sonship, John the baptiser comes with a Holy Spirit filled bazooka of truth to confront and destroy everything that is holding us back from the Father and Son coming close together in perfect partnership. He takes a metaphorical axe to the root of everything holding us back:

1. **Excesses of our personalities** - "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain shall be laid low. Crooked roads shall be made straight."
2. **Religion** - Our religious roots go deep into our hearts and must be removed (You brood of vipers, produce fruit.) We are heavily influenced by our religious upbringing no matter our background, no matter our church. Our religious root says "I obey therefore I'm accepted," but the gospel says "I'm accepted therefore I obey."
3. **Culture** - Dealing with our assimilated worldly values like our individuality so that we can live in community. (The one who has two tunics, share with him who has none...)
4. **Pride** - "The straps of whose sandal I'm not worthy to untie."

God the Father is inviting us into these brackets of Sonship, inviting us to be apprenticed to our heavenly Father. Removing everything that is holding us back, straightening any crooked paths, dealing with our broken cultures and removing our pride and by doing so creating a pathway of partnership that can usher in a new kingdom.

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What are you apprenticing yourself to?

In what areas can you be apprenticed more to your heavenly Father?

Where is the Father asking you to change your patterns of life to partner with Him?