

Faith in the Home: Sermon Notes and Applications

The Second Sunday after Epiphany. John 1:29-42: "Behold!"

"Look at that!" When we see something exciting, do something exciting, or something exciting has happened we want to share it. If I am watching a game with my dad and something exciting happens and I happened to leave the room, my dad will exclaim it to me across the household. When Jeremy is excited, he will share it everyone. Lucy, will share excitement her own way too. I'm no different. The last time I was driving Southbound on the 5 with Jeremy I saw not one, not two, but three Marine helicopters doing an exercise over Camp Pendleton. "Jeremy, look over there! Do you see those helicopters?" I exclaimed.

After John the Baptist had baptized Jesus, he later saw Jesus walking, and pointed Him out to of his own disciples and said, "Behold! (Look!) The Lamb of God of who takes away the sin of the world." John was excited about sharing the good news that the Messiah had arrived and that He saw Him yet again. One of those disciples of John was named Andrew, and he was excited as well. So, we went and told his brother Simon (who Jesus would rename Peter) about seeing the Messiah. Jesus is good news! Jesus is exciting. He is our salvation. He takes care of us.

How often in our lives do we need to heed the words of John the Baptist, and "behold" all the things Jesus is and rejoice in what He has done for us, and what He is doing for us every day? Who in your life needs to hear those words themselves, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

We get lost in our own "stuff." We fall into the trap of making everything about ourselves and oddly enough in doing so we steal our own joy. In the Gospel according to John, Jesus refers to Himself as, the "Light of the World." The Apostle John does the same thing in His account of the Gospel. We need to behold that Jesus is our light. Not every day is going to peaches, cream, roses, and rainbows. But when we remember that ultimately, we are secure as children of God because of Jesus, our view brightens.

Our view can also brighten when we realize that God can use as instruments to say to others, "Behold the Lamb of the God." I know that sharing the Gospel with others can be downright intimidating, but that only helps to lean further in on God who does the heavy lifting of building the Church. That is His job. We are to be disciples of Jesus. We are to

gather and remind each other to "behold" Jesus. We are the ones to tell others outside of the Church to "Behold" Him as well. He will build His Church.

So how do we share and model these things to our children?

1. "Beholding" Jesus means knowing our limits and trusting that God is going to help us take care of the things that need doing. It means leaning on Him and trusting that if we ask in His name, He will answer our prayers. As James said, "You have not because you ask not." Being intentional about developing time to pray will grow your relationship with God. Your children will eventually see the genuine devotion to your time with God, and know that you are not merely trying to put on a show of false piety.
 2. Sometimes stress can light a fire of motivation to get things done, but it can have ugly side effect of straining your health, and passing that stress along to others in your household. So, if the to do list stresses you out, pray before you tackle it, maybe even praying before you tackle each individual item. It said that Martin Luther has so much to do each day that he spent four hours in prayer every day. You don't have to try to outdo Luther, but praying before doing anything will be more of a help than a hindrance.
 3. John the Baptist pointed Andrew to Jesus. Andrew in turn went and told His brother Simon (who would be renamed Peter). We have been pointed to Jesus. We are called to point others to Jesus. We must do this for our children, and further more we are to do it for our neighbors who God has placed in our lives. This does not mean that we "thump the Bible" around them, but it does mean that we pray for God's leading in sharing His light.
 4. The most important thing to do when comes to sharing the Gospel is to first listen. Listen and offer to pray for your neighbors, and then go home and follow through by praying for them. Secondly, develop your testimony. Start to think about what God has personally done for you in your life. Ask yourself where would I be without Him? You can start to develop a genuine faith story to share with people. But remember, they need to know you care, before they care about what you know about Jesus.
-