

2018-12-30 ... 10.30am Service ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt
Luke 2: 41-52
'Questions for the end of a calendar year'

Introduction ...

It's an odd Sunday in terms of Bible readings today – from the baby in the manger last Tuesday, we jump to Jesus aged 12 in the temple – yet next week, we're back with him as a baby or toddler with the visit of the 3 wise men!

There is one phrase or theme, however that seems especially appropriate as we're on the cusp of a new calendar year.

In the temple, we read that Jesus was asking lots of questions ... questions of those who taught about God and faith. Yet we also read that those present were amazed at his understanding and his answers ... there was some 2 way learning going on!

Have a look at the picture and associated questions in the pew sheet:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2018/98-november-december-2018-bc/christmas-1/explore-respond>



- Who's teaching and who's learning in this photo?
- How receptive are we to children and young people's wisdom?
- How have you grown wiser in the past year?
- What faith questions do you have that you would like answered this year?

The first 2 questions:

- Who's teaching and who's learning in this photo?
- How receptive are we to children and young people's wisdom?

Perhaps the increasing development of technology can help to remind us adults that we can learn from those of young years ... and not only about technology but about faith too.

And for the young people and children among us – don't be afraid to voice your opinion – to say what you think ... it's really important.

And let's all remember that young children are usually not frightened to ask questions – embarrassment often grows with age ... so may be one thing to bear in mind today and in 2019 is to be willing to voice our questions ... and see who might have a helpful insight. Jesus – once an adult himself – said that we were to become like little children – and this asking of questions might be one thing he had in mind.

Then the next question:

- How have you grown wiser in the past year?

PTO

Knowledge and understanding underpin wisdom – but they are not the same thing – and for Christians, wisdom is also related to seeking God’s view – what is the mind of Christ on this matter?

So what has helped you to grow wiser in the past year ... we’ll have a few moments of quiet for reflection ...

Maybe from that reflection you know what will help you to continue to grow in Christ-centred wisdom during 2019 ...

And then the last question

- What faith questions do you have that you would like answered this year?

Jesus, as a 12 yr old may well have ‘gone missing’ because he felt an urgency about faith and faith questions ... so he went to the Temple.

In the pews are slips of paper:

If you have a faith question you would like to be explored in 2019 – possibly in a sermon or in a discussion group ... jot it down.

I can’t promise we’ll do all of them – but we’ll certainly have a look and see what we can do.

(Time to fill in and collect)

Suggestion

Ask someone a question about faith this week and listen to their answer. Don’t try to start a discussion or debate, just find out something new about another person’s faith. Try an open question such as: ***‘What is God like to you?’***

Prayer

Be confident in your calling as ‘this year’ becomes ‘next year’. Be adventurous in your questioning as you explore life and faithfulness. Listen to the wisdom of both young and old as you journey day by day. May you, and all whom you love and hold in your heart, know God’s blessing – today and always.

Amen.