

## Become What You Receive

On Sunday, we began a new sermon series called “The Beauty Of Christ – Living In Me.”

1. Warm-up Question: On Sunday, Jeff used a morphing app from Snapchat to show what Spencer James would look like if he could morph into Andrea Platt. (Jeff also showed what he would look like as a dog. 😊) If you could morph into someone else, who would you want to look like? (No fair saying Jesus.)
2. Each week in this new sermon series we’ll explore a different epic story of Jesus. With each story we’ll ask, “What it is that Jesus does in this story that’s so compelling, and what would it look like for me to incorporate that characteristic into my life?”
  - a. Jeff told about a communion blessing he once heard that goes like this: “Behold what you are. Become what you receive.” What does that mean?
  - b. In Luke 6:40, Jesus says, “A disciple . . . who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.” What does that mean?
3. If you could tell only one story from your formative years to help us understand the essence of who you are, what story would you tell?
4. There is only one story in the Bible about Jesus’ formative years. Only one. Apparently Luke thought that if we were really going to understand Jesus, and what made him tick, we needed to know this one key story from Jesus’ childhood. Read Luke 2:41-52.
  - a. At age 12, how do you imagine Jesus felt about traveling from Nazareth to the Festival of the Passover in Jerusalem?
  - b. How is it possible that Jesus’ parents left him behind? Can you imagine a plausible scenario?
  - c. As a 12 year old, what do you think was going on in Jesus’ mind during those three days he spent in the temple without seeing his parents even once?
5. When Mary rebukes boy Jesus, he says, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” In other translations, Jesus says, “. . . I must be in my Father’s house.” Either way, Jesus’ words reveal a deep sense of his core identity as, above all else, a child of God. I John 3:1 encourages us to embrace that same primary identity when it says, “See what love the Father has

- given us that we should be called sons and daughters of God; and that is what we are.”
- a. In John 4:24, Jesus says, “God is spirit.” What does that mean?
  - b. Genesis 1:27 says we are created in God’s image. In other words, if the essence of God is spirit, the essence of us is also spirit. What are the implications of that for us? In other words, if/when you internalize a core identity that says “I am, above all else, a spirit being,” how does that change things?
  - c. Jeff told how his friend Michelle felt her spouse’s spirit pass through her when she breathed her last. He also told how seeing his cat lying so completely lifeless after his spirit departed brought home how much our bodies are just an empty shell unless animated by our spirit. When in your life have you been dramatically reminded that our essence is spirit?
  - d. Where would you place yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being “I consistently see myself as primarily a spirit being” and 1 being “I never see myself that way”? Tell us your number and why you pick that number.
6. Jesus’ primary identity as a spirit being made him voraciously hungry and thirsty for spiritual information. “After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.”
- a. Jeff reminded us of an Ancestry.com TV commercial where a woman discovers her Nigerian ancestry and longs to know more. Most of us feel a deep desire to know our human ancestry. Why? What do you know about yours?
  - b. As the *Dos Equis* beer commercials says, “Stay thirsty, my friend.” When in your life have you been most hungry and thirsty for spiritual knowledge? What brought you to that place? Do you currently feel that same hunger and thirst? Why or why not?
  - c. What is your current spiritual growing edge? What do you currently want to know more about? What question most animates your current spiritual quest?
7. As a result of his core identity as child of God and his deep hunger and thirst for spiritual information, Jesus came to realize that his purpose in life was to “be about [his] Father’s business.” Like Jesus, each of us has also been put here for deeply spiritual purposes.
- a. How would you define your life purpose? If someone were to ask you, how would you explain it?

- b. How far along are you toward fulfilling your life purpose?
- c. For you, what's a next step in living more deeply into your life purpose?