DEVOTED TO GOD IN EVERYTHING *A Heart Like Jesus*

By Matt Hennecke

The Bible has little to say about Jesus as he grew into adulthood. We do, however, have one brief glimpse of Jesus, at the age of twelve, responding to his mother when she, worried about him, asked about his staying behind in Jerusalem. Jesus responds, “Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s *house*?” Other translations put it this way: “Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s *business*?” (Luke 2:49). You may notice in your Bible the word “house” or “business” is in italics. That means it has been added by translators. Why? Interestingly, the Greek text doesn’t have a noun to translate as either “house” or “business” so translators added a noun. So, a completely literal translation would read: “Did you not know I must be about my Father?” That sounds strange doesn’t it? Without the added noun (“house” or “business”) it feels like something is missing or has been omitted. We’re left hanging, wondering “our Father’s . . . what?”

Now I’m not suggesting I know anything about Greek or about translations, but it is interesting that without the added noun Jesus’ statement seems much more expansive. In other words, Jesus‘ focus isn’t just on his Father’s house or just on his Father’s business, but on his Father’s – everything. Leaving off the noun may actually convey better what Jesus was saying. So what’s the point? Well, there is a dangerous inclination many of us have to compartmentalize our lives. We develop a compartment for family, for work, for recreation, for hobbies, and for worship. In other words, if we’re not careful we may push the Father into a compartment separate from all others and only devote ourselves to Him during worship or Bible study. If we do, then we are not being about our Father’s *everything*.

Jesus was wholeheartedly devoted to his Father. Jesus focused on his Father in the

temple, while at home, when he ate, when he did chores, when he practiced carpentry, and when he died. In short, Jesus was focused on his Father when he did anything. That is

devotion. That is the heart of Jesus. Does your heart beat wholeheartedly for the Father in *every* aspect of your life?

- Source: *A Heart Like Jesus* by Matt Hennecke, CEI Bookstore