

Luke 2:21-52

We have seen the story line building in Luke as the 400+ years of silence have been broken with angels appearing, miracles occurring, births taking place...ultimately with the most important birth that has ever occurred: the birth of Jesus.

Now, as we have moved beyond Christmas and the nativity, we get a 30,000 foot of Jesus' childhood. In fact, almost everything we know about the childhood of Christ comes from the latter part of Luke 2. Our story today begins in verse 21.

v21-24

(Summarize) *And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*

22 And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

Mary and Joseph carefully follow the law and time line of Leviticus 12.

1. They circumcise Jesus on the 8th day.
2. And they take him to Jerusalem to present him to God after the time of purification.
3. They complete their obedience by offering the sacrifice the Lord required (a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons).

It should be no surprise that Mary and Joseph would keep the law of God carefully.

1. Matthew 1:19 *And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.*

2. Luke 1:30 *Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.*

Parents, is our obedience to the Word of the Lord as consistent and thorough as Mary and Joseph's? What do our children learn about serving God as they watch us?

v25-35

(Summarize) *25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,*

29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel."

33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother; "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of

many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed-- 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul--to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Simeon pointed out that Jesus' purpose was to be a light of revelation to the Gentiles

v36-38

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. 38 At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Anna erupted in thanksgiving and told everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem about Jesus.

1. His purpose was revealed
2. He was the Savior, the redeemer, the Light of the world.

v39-40

39 When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. 40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

v41-45

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; 43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, 44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

1. For the past 12 years, his parents have taken him on this annual pilgrimage to worship during the passover, and then this year, they lose him.
 - a. That doesn't sound too responsible does it?
 - b. How many of you have left a kid?
2. It would not have been hard to lose Jesus as they left Jerusalem.
 - a. Keep in mind that he was almost a man!
 - b. He also likely had several younger siblings at this point that Mary and Joseph had to keep up with.
 - c. Mary thought Joseph had him at the back of the caravan, and Joseph thought Mary had him at the front of the caravan.
 - d. Whatever happened, I am quite confident it was Joseph's fault
3. Where did they finally find Jesus?

v46-50

46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. 48 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." 49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

- a. By age 12, Jesus is the wisest person in the land...the foolishness of youth.
- b. Jesus makes clear that God is his Father. He makes clear that the Father's business is his business.

v51-52

51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

1. Jesus, the son of God went home and submitted to his parents!
2. And he progressed...he increased...he grew...how?

I. Wisdom v52a

- A. Jesus increased in wisdom throughout those silent years
- B. He obviously already had great wisdom.

1. Luke 2:46-47 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

- C. You aren't going to get wisdom just because you get a lot of degrees or just because you have some age on you.

1. True Wisdom is far different from what we often assume today

a. Ps 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

b. Prov 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- D. Get into the word of God.

1. Lay down the books and the Bible studies.
2. Lay down the devotionals for awhile and get in the Word of God alone.
3. **Introduce Bible reading plans for Plus 1!!!!!!**
3. Ps 119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

- E. He increased in wisdom

II. Stature v52b

- A. He went through the teen years...

1. He grew naturally, physically, and emotionally and he did not play the fool!
2. Verse 51 *And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them*
3. Teens, you don't get a pass!
4. These could be your greatest years! Please don't waste them!!!

III. Favor with God v52c

A. He not only grew in wisdom and stature, but in favor with God

1. He was already close to God at the age of 12
2. v48-49 *When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." 49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"*
3. Where had they been looking?
4. Jesus' question to them was, "You shouldn't have had to seek at all. You shouldn't have had to look at all. Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?"

B. There is a subtle hint in these verses that we need to notice

1. Mary says, "Your father and I have been searching for you."
2. Jesus replies, "Didn't you know I was in my Father's house?"
 - a. The expression my Father is noteworthy (the Jews added in heaven or used our Father or the like).
 - b. Jesus simply called him his Father.
 - c. The first recorded words of the Messiah are then a recognition of his unique relationship to God and of the necessity of his being in the Father's house.
3. He must please him!
4. His will for me is more important than your hopes for me.

C. How could Jesus have increased in favor with God?

1. Hebrews 5:8-9 *Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,*
2. God constantly and continually looked upon Jesus with favor and approval...and as He continued to mature, and grow, and develop, and live without sin, God's approval and favor of Him continued to increase.

IV. Favor with Man v52d

Jesus apparently was a likable individual. His friendship with others developed and grew during this time.

1. We must understand that we should grow in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God, and in favor with man.
2. We should not try to make people angry with us.
3. We should not intentionally offend them or hurt their feelings.
 - a. Be nice!!
 - b. Be kind!!!!
 - c. Be gracious and patient and compassionate.

I know, I know that finding favor with God does not usually bring favor with man

1. John 15:20 *Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*

2. 2 Tim 3:12 *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*

3. We should be favorable to men and let them respond as they will.

4. If someone gets offended with you, make sure it is the gospel...and not you!

Conclusion:

1. We all need to grow.
2. I want to invite you to join me in pressing forward in 2020 to new spiritual heights and depths.
3. I want to challenge us all to take one more step in Bible reading, memory work, prayer, worship, making disciples, hospitality, giving, evangelism, and missions.