

Left Behind

February 22, 2009

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus' Youth

- This portion of Scripture is valuable and unique
 - **Not all** portions of Scripture are **equally valuable**
 - 📖 Text of tabernacle furnishings and sacrificial law of **Ex 25/Lev** like **southern GA**
 - *These texts can yield riches ~ but you must work harder at it...*
 - Good number of parables are recorded in all 3 synoptic gospels
 - We are curious about what the early life of Jesus was like
 - But we have very few insights into it ~ only as an infant and a 12-year old

Infancy Gospel of Thomas

- “Now when Jesus was five years old there was a great rain upon the earth, and the child Jesus walked about therein. And the rain was very terrible: and he gathered the water together into a pool and commanded with a word that it should become clear: and forthwith it did so.”
- While young in Egypt He brought a dried up **fish** to life ~ their landlady booted them out
- Made 12 **sparrows** ~ confronted with Sabbath breaking - gave them life and they flew away
- The son of a Pharisee then **drained** the pool and Jesus cursed him and he died

Joseph and Mary were Faithful

- **v41** ~ “they went ... every year” ~ attended the festival *religiously*
- **v43** ~ “they had finished the days” ~ they stayed all 8 days

v42 ~ The Custom of the Feast

- 📖 **v42** ~ “*What is the custom referred to here?*”
 - It's not just going to Jerusalem ~ **read 41-42** without “**twelve years old**” phrase
 - The **custom** was not just that of Joseph and Mary
 - The **custom** was “of the feast” ~ to bring your boys **when** they turned 12
 - This was Jesus' **first trip** to attend the Passover in Jerusalem
- It was mandatory for all men to attend the religious festivals
 - **Ex 23:17** ~ “*Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.*”
 - Mary need not have attended
 - Jesus started attending at 12 (by **custom**) - at 13 (by **Law**) ~ according to John Gill
- 📖 **Have 12 year old boys raise hands** ~ then 11 and 13 too... stand...

v43 ~ “Jesus lingered behind ... Joseph and His mother did not know it”

- Here is where this text gets very **interesting**... [2 questions](#)
 1. “Did Jesus know that they were planning to leave?”
 2. “How could they not know Jesus was not with them?”

1. “Did Jesus know that they were planning to leave?”

- **NO** ~ “We must suppose that his being left behind by his parents was not designed on his part, both because he at once returned with his parents when found, and also because his remaining at Jerusalem intentionally, without his parents' knowledge or consent, could hardly be reconciled with his duty as a son.” ~ Abbott bros
- **YES** ~ “[They knew not] of his intention to tarry longer, nor of his design in so doing: he did not ask leave of them, since his stay was about an affair of his heavenly Father's; and therefore this action of Christ is not to be drawn into an example, or precedent for children, to act without consulting, or asking leave of their parents.” ~ Gill
- People want to explain away Jesus’ behavior (they **assume disobedience**)
 - But there was no obvious disobedience ~ it is just assumed
- We’ll discuss this more later when Mary and Joseph find Him at the temple

2. “How could they not know Jesus was not with them?”

- 📺 Home Alone ~ in attic, power outage, neighbor in van, late for plane – no count
- 📺 Home Alone 2 ~ alarm unplugged, overcoat, wrong plane, tickets on floor, take a seat
- 📺 Home Alone 3 & 4 ~ Dad just hands him keys to house when they leave
 - “Do you remember the **chaos** of the household in these movies?”
- **Thanksgiving** or **Christmas** at your homes
- **Sunday afternoons** at the Kayser’s house
 - **Walks** around the Kayser’s neighborhood with 2 dozen people
 - Now imagine thousands of people doing so...
- Everybody walked to Jerusalem ~ a million people
- Psalms of Ascents – singing psalms 120-134 on the walk
 - Men and women travelled in separate groups
 - A 12-year old boy could easily be thought to be with the other parent

Xition: This text affords us an opportunity to explore a difficult topic...

Negligence and Accidental Death

- Negligence ~ parental negligence ~ accidental death ~ etc...
- When something like this happens today there's a possibility of **criminal charges**
 - Father being exonerated of **drowning** of a child in a bathtub
 - Two cases of accidental death being reconsidered (**earlier death too**)
 - With biblical law everyone was granted benefit of the doubt
 - **"Innocent unless proven guilty..."**
- 📖 **Ex 21:28-29** ~ **"ox gores someone to death"**
- Jewish law provided for protection of people via the cities of refuge
 - 📖 **Number 35 ~ 9-12** (refuge), 16-21 (murderers executed), **22-28** (refuge)
 - Accidental death ~ if **avenger of blood** seeks your life ~ flee there
 - **"Avenger of blood"** is synonymous with kinsmen-redeemer
 - **v24** ~ congregation shall judge between them (trial by jury of peers)
 - Manslayer safe in the city (innocent) and can return home upon death of HP
 - **v19** ~ avenger of blood himself **shall** put the murderer to death
 - Person executed by avenger of blood if **guilty**
 - Person cannot be executed if in **refuge**
- 🏠 **Josh and Alaina Beasley nightmare**
 - On Jan 31st, Josh and Alaina had shot skeet
 - He'd come home, cleaned the gun and placed 3 shells in it
 - Later he walked around playing intruder game
 - She was standing at the sink ~ He pointed it at her and pulled the trigger
 - Josh made two mistakes: pointing it at her and pulling the trigger while loaded
- No **middle ground** in our culture ~ no cities of refuge ~ disruption of life

~Mary's Anxiety (3 Days Searching)

- **v44** ~ **"they went a day's journey"**
 - This first day's walk was a light-hearted journey ~ discussing the past week
- **v45** ~ **"they returned to Jerusalem seeking Him"**
 - The return to Jerusalem was anything but light-hearted
 - *"What had happened to Jesus?"*
 - Jesus was considered an **enemy of the state**
 - **King Herod** had been after Him once...
 - Many boys 2 and under had died because of Him
 - *"Was this the first time Jesus was in the **capitol** city? Yes, most likely..."*
- **v46** ~ **"after three days they found Him in temple"**

Xition: First, Let's Consider the Teacher's Week

Teachers had a Busy Week ~ Now Relaxing


- **Two more questions** come to mind...
 1. *“Why would Jesus be sitting with the teachers now?”*
 2. *“Why would Joseph and Mary not know to look for Him there?”*
- Upon reflection, the answers seem clear
 - He hadn’t had the chance to do so until after the 8th day
 - So Joseph and Mary hadn’t seen Him do this over the past week...
- All of these men were no doubt very **busy over the past week**
 - This is the biggest of their 3 annual week long religious celebrations
 - They’re winding down now...
 - They got together to discuss theology – to *“talk shop”* so to speak
 - The temple was probably given over to formal gatherings until then
 - Nothing a 12-year old boy could participate in

Mary’s Surprise

Read verses 48-49

- **v48** ~ *“So when they saw Him, they were **amazed...**”*
- **v48** ~ Mary said, *“**Son, why have You done this to us?**”*
- *“Why would Mary be so perplexed by His behavior?”*
 - Probably because He’s never done anything like this before
 - He’s probably always done what they expected ~ **without being told**
 - And without even having to ask
 - *“**Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child...**”* ~ Prov 22:15
 - **Not this child...**

Exchange between Mary and Jesus

- Note in the NJKV that Mary uses **“father”** and Jesus uses **“Father”**
 - They each use the same Greek word ~ (**pater**) but with a different Father in mind
 - She means Joseph... He means God in Heaven
- Let’s look more closely at how parental roles are addressed here...
 -  **Read verses 41-43** ~ point out **“parents”** then **“Joseph and His mother”**
 - Luke refers to Joseph in **v41** implicitly as Jesus’ father by calling them **parents**
 - But then in **v43** he refers to him as **Joseph** when referring to their separation
 - Luke is in a very subtle way illustrating a change...
- Then Mary in **v48** refers to Joseph as Jesus’ father
 - But Jesus answers c/His heavenly Father
- **NOTE** that Jesus was **not** rebelling against Joseph
 - But we **must** understand what is going on...
 - This is why this portion of text is in the Bible

MAIN POINT ~ Jesus taking up His Father's work

- Scholars differ on the meaning of this phrase
 - **v49** ~ "about My Father's business"
 - NIV translation ~ "in My Father's House"
 - I believe the KJV rendering "business" is the correct one
- Hendriksen (house) says, "the entire question here is one of *whereness*"
 - I disagree... That is certainly true of Joseph and Mary – they've been searching
 - But for Jesus it is a question of "**what**"...
 - Jesus: "*If you know **what** I'm to do, you should have known **where** to find Me.*"
- Jesus' reply emphasizes the disconnect – the **dissimilarities** – not the similarities
- Jesus is clearly telling His mother, that He knows the identity of His real Father...
 - *"This is something all adopted or step children focus upon one day"*
 - We're given a glimpse into this blended family at a critical moment
 - We can assume Joseph and Mary have kept His heritage a secret

Jesus Takes up the Work His Father Tasked Him With

- *"Why now?"* ~ *"Why is this recorded?"* ~ *"Why is it now important?"*
 - It has to do with the fact that Jesus has now turned **twelve**
- In addition to being counted among the males at 13 ~ start trade of father at 12
- Jesus is beginning His **apprenticeship to His Father in Heaven**
- He's probably begun an **apprenticeship to Joseph in Nazareth**
- Jesus is only One Person ~ but He has **2 distinct natures**
 - As the Son of Man He began work for His earthly "father" Joseph
 - As the Son of God He now begins work for His heavenly Father
 - But the two very different duties (natures) **must share the same Person**
- **v46** ~ "listening to them and asking them questions"
- **v47** ~ Jesus speaking, understanding and answering questions
- He was picking up His heavenly Father's trade very quickly

Joseph & Mary Didn't Understand

 **v50** ~ "But they **did not understand** the statement which He spoke to them."

- *"Why didn't they understand?"*
 - The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary (Luke 1)
 - An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph at least 3 times (Mt 1 & 2)
 - And he was warned in a dream by God when returning to Israel
- But all of this had occurred over 10 years ago
- Joseph and Mary still weren't at all clear who Jesus was...
 - or what He was to do...
 - And they've had several more children since then (who are normal ...)
 - Jesus was their **Wunderkind**

v51a ~ They all return to Nazareth

- This all appears to have come as a **total surprise** to Joseph and Mary
- After they return to Nazareth, Mary is more watchful
 - **v51b** ~ “His mother kept all these things in her heart”
- Jesus had been – and now remained – “subject to them”
 - The Son of **God** subject to a son of **Adam**
 - The **perfect** subject to the **imperfect**
 - The **holy** subject to the **sinful**
- Jesus was God, but subjected himself to the rule of a sinful man and woman
- *“Do you see the lesson here for all of us?”*
 - If Jesus can submit to His earthly authorities, surely we can...
 - **We must suppress the rebellion in our hearts**
 - If Jesus could be subject to Joseph and Mary despite their sins and imperfections
 - Then our children must be subject to us despite our sins and imperfections
 - **They must suppress the rebellion in their hearts**

v52 ~ Jesus' Life in Nazareth

- **“wisdom and stature”**
 - **Wisdom** regards making wise choices in thought and action
 - **Stature** ~ *“Is this physical height or influence in society or both?”*
 - Influence is covered fairly well by next clause ~ “favor”
 - I think this primarily relates to physical growth
- **“favor with God and man”**
 - Growing in favor with God as regards His human nature
 - He applies Himself to His **religious duties**
 - Learning Scripture, meditating, memorizing, fasting, serving, etc...
 - Growing in favor with men reflects His usefulness and dependability
 - Jesus fulfilled both tables of the Law fully
 - **He loved God** and served Him faithfully
 - **He loved mankind** and served them faithfully as well...

Children: Remember that He entered into this with wisdom and knowledge at age 12...

Benediction

“The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.” (Num 6:24-26)