

“JESUS’ FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN”

LUKE 2:40-52

REV. CHARLES R. BIGGS

INTRODUCTION

In today’s passage, Luke focuses our attention on the twelve-year old boy Jesus who is maturing both spiritually and physically by God’s grace.

For the first time in Luke’s gospel, **Jesus speaks**, and we get a better understanding of his purpose and mission as Messiah.

I. Jesus Grows Up and Matures both Spiritually and Physically (Luke 2:40, 52)

Two summary statements of Jesus form an ***inclusio*** around Jesus’ visit to the Temple with his parents for the Passover Feast. ***This is Luke’s portrait of Jesus’ self-identity or knowledge of himself as God’s unique Son.***

Note: An ***inclusio*** is a literary device that forms a bracket around the context for purposes of emphasis.

Example of an Inclusio: Luke 2:40, 52

^{ESV} **Luke 2:40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

- In this passage, it seems that Luke wants us to know and understand Jesus’ growth from perfect innocence as a child to perfect holiness as a man.

^{ESV} **Luke 2:52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

- Jesus grew- physical growth
 - Jesus increased in wisdom- spiritual growth
 - Jesus was favored by God and man- obedient and devout life
- a. Luke is unique as a gospel writer in including a childhood incident before Jesus begins his public ministry.
- i. There are no other biblical or reliable historical records of Jesus’ boyhood. But we all are curious about Jesus’

boyhood and early manhood from 12 years old until he was 30 (18 years without record!).

"There is something grand, even awful," wrote Alfred Edersheim, "in the almost absolute silence which lies upon the thirty years between the Birth and the first Messianic Manifestation of Jesus" (*The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, 255). We know virtually nothing of these years, outside of what Luke's gospel reveals.

- ii. Luke seems to be the only Gospel writer who includes specific, **intimate details of Jesus' birth and youth that only Mary could have told to him as an eyewitness.**
- iii. What about the so-called *Gospel of Thomas*? In the apocryphal *Gospel of Thomas*, written later in the second century, there is great speculation about the childhood of Christ that we should avoid and discount completely as the imaginations of a sinful man. *There is a reason the Holy Spirit did not inspire any of the Gospel writers to include full details of Jesus' childhood.* The "*Gospel of Thomas*" as an uninspired text speaks of Jesus in this way:

"When this boy Jesus was five years old he was playing at the crossing of a stream, and he gathered together into pools the running water, and instantly made it clean, and gave his command with a single word. Having made soft clay he moulded from it twelve sparrows. And it was the sabbath when he did these things. And there were also many other children playing with him. When a certain Jew saw what Jesus was doing while playing on the sabbath, he at once went and told his father Joseph, 'See your child is at the stream, and he took clay and moulded twelve birds and has profaned the sabbath.' And when Joseph came to the place and looked, he cried out to him, saying, 'Why do you do on the sabbath things which it is not lawful to do?' But Jesus clapped his hands and cried out to the sparrows and said to them, 'Be gone!' And the sparrows took flight and went away chirping. The Jews were amazed when they saw this, and went away and told their leaders what they had seen Jesus do" (2.1-5; *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*, pp. 75-76).

Summary from 'The Gospel of Thomas'

- Jesus made 12 sparrows from clay.
- Jesus made the water clean by command.

- Jesus got in trouble for his miracles with the Jewish teachers for this when another child tattled on him.
- b. Why does Luke record this early incident of Jesus boyhood at twelve years old?
- i. Perhaps because of Luke's interest in the weak and insignificant in ancient Roman society: women, widows, the poor, babies and boys.
 - ii. Luke shows that Jesus grew **intellectually, morally, and spiritually** in the same way that he did physically grow up and mature into a man.

Intellectually
Morally
Spiritually
Physically

The question is:

- c. **How can Jesus grow up, mature and gain favor with God if he is God?** (John 1:1-3: "With God...and was God.")
- i. As **True God** (One person, two natures): He is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.
 - a. OMNISCIENT- All knowing.
 - b. OMNIPRESENT- Everywhere present.
 - c. OMNIPOTENT- All powerful.
 - ii. As **True Man** (One Person two natures): he is learning, local, and limited.
 - a. LEARNING- Growing in knowledge and understanding; does not know all things.
 - b. LOCAL- Walks from one place to the next; is not everyone present at one time as a true human being.
 - c. LIMITED- He is weak; he can suffer; he can be tempted; he can be troubled; he can die.
- The **Westminster Confession of Faith** summarizes this biblical teaching about God's Son:

WCF 8.2 The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon Him man's nature,(1) with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin;(2) being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance.(3) So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion.(4) Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.(5) (1)John 1:1,14; 1 John 5:20; Phil. 2:6; Gal. 4:4. (2)Heb. 2:14,16,17; Heb. 4:15. (3)Luke 1:27,31,35; Gal. 4:4. (4)Luke 1:35; Col. 2:9; Rom. 9:5; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Tim. 3:16. (5)Rom. 1:3,4; 1 Tim. 2:5.

WCF 8.7 Christ, in the work of mediation, acteth according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself:(1) yet, by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Scripture attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.(2) (1)Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 3:18. (2)Acts 20:28; John 3:13; 1 John 3:16.

iii. **Mystery and Beauty of the Incarnation :Jesus' growth spiritually and physically (2:52)**

1. **Jesus increases in wisdom**: Jesus learns his ABCs, learns to spell, learns to read God's word and to know the commandments, and he learns how to apply them in this world as he seeks first the Kingdom of God throughout his life, as he depends upon the Holy Spirit to teach and guide him.

A perfect biblical summary of Jesus' growth in wisdom:

^{ESV} **Proverbs 3:1-6**: My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ²for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

2. **Jesus increases in bodily strength and size**: Jesus eats food grown from the earth he created, and goes through the natural and normal development of any human being.
3. **Jesus increases in favor with God and man**: Jesus depends utterly on the help of the Holy Spirit as he lives God's word perfectly obedient before God and man. Jesus walks humbly, loves mercy, and seeks to practice justice in all situations of life (cf. Micah 6:8).
4. Jesus grows spiritually and physically without the taint and inward influence of original sin; **Jesus did not have a sinful nature**; he grew intellectually, morally, spiritually and physically without the influence of sin (Although the consequences of sin affected his life (i.e. he suffered, wept, and died), he was not born with a sinful nature).

Mystery of the Incarnation is that Jesus grew 'LIKE US' as a true human being, but 'NOT LIKE US' in the way of being influenced by a sinful nature!

This is summarized in Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16:

Hebrews 2:17-18: *Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect*, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 4:14-16:** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ ***For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*** ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Reformed Pastor J. C. Philpot in the 19th century wrote of Christ's humanity:

The human nature which the blessed Lord assumed into union with his divine Person hungered, thirsted, was weary, wept, sighed, groaned, sweat drops of blood, agonised in the garden and on the

cross, was tried, deserted, tempted, buffeted, spit upon, crucified, and, by a voluntary act, died. Had it not been a real human nature, the sufferings and sorrows of the holy soul, the pains and agonies of the sacred body, the obedience rendered, the blood shed, the sacrifice offered, the life laid down would not have been real, at least not really endured and offered in that very nature which was to be redeemed and reconciled. This is beautifully unfolded by the apostle: "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:17, 18).

5. **Jesus was a perfect person even in childhood.**

One author wrote eloquently: "His was a perfect humanity developing perfectly, unimpeded by hereditary or acquired defects. It was the first instance of such a growth in history. For the first time a human infant was realizing the ideal of humanity" (Plummer, Quoted in Geldenhuys, pg. 122).

Lengthy Quotations from Dr. Sam Storms (Enjoying God Ministries)/Max Lucado on the Humanity and Deity of Christ

As Paul said in 1 Tim. 3:16, "great is the mystery of godliness: God was revealed in the flesh!"

Conception: *God became a fertilized egg! An embryo. A fetus. God kicked Mary from within her womb!*

Birth: *God entered the world as a baby, amid the stench of manure and cobwebs and prickly hay in a stable. Mary cradled God in her arms. "He doesn't look like a Creator," she says to herself. Envision the newborn Jesus: misshaped head; wrinkled skin; red face. Just think: **angels watched as Mary changed God's diapers!** Tiny hands (that would touch/heal the sick and yet be ripped by nails); eyes (what color were they?); tiny feet (where would they take him? they, too, would be pierced by nails); she tickled his side (which would also be lanced with a spear).*

Infancy: *God learned to crawl, stand, walk; he spilt his milk and fell and hit his head.*

Youth: *was he uncoordinated? how well did he perform at sports? perhaps Jesus knew the pain of always being*

*picked last when the kids chose up sides for a ballgame.
God learned his ABC's!*

***Teenager:** Jesus probably had pimples and body odor and bad breath. **God went through puberty!** His voice changed; he had to shave; girls probably had a crush on him and boys probably teased him. There were probably some foods he didn't like (Squash!). Could he sing? Maybe he couldn't carry a tune in a bucket!?*

***Carpenter:** calloused hands; dealings with customers who tried to cheat him or complained about his work; how did he react when they shortchanged him?*

Some think it irreverent to speak of Jesus this way. As Max Lucado has said,

*"it's not something we like to do; it's uncomfortable. It is much easier to keep the humanity out of the incarnation. Clean the manure from around the manger. Wipe the sweat out of his eyes. Pretend he never snored or blew his nose or hit his thumb with a hammer. He's easier to stomach that way. There is something about keeping him divine that keeps him distant, packaged, predictable. But don't do it. For heaven's sake, don't. Let him be as human as he intended to be. Let him into the mire and muck of our world. For only if we let him in can he pull us out" (26-7).
—Quoted from Enjoying God Ministries,
<http://www.enjoyinggodministries.com/article/incarnation-and-humanity>*

6. Luke 2:40 and verse 52 teach us that Jesus was perfect as a child in innocence (like Adam and Eve), but that he grew physically and spiritually into perfect manhood through obedience and holiness.
 - a. Perfection in Innocence
 - b. Perfection in Holiness

^{ESV} **Hebrews 2:10** For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, **should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.**

^{ESV} **Hebrews 5:1-10:** For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal

gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶ as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." ⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ **Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.** ⁹ **And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,** ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 7:28** For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, **appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.**

New Testament scholar Darrell Bock writes: "Jesus was unique not only in his divinity but also in his humanity, namely, in his ability to focus on and carry out God's will in his life." (NIV Application Commentary, pg. 103).

II. **Jesus Celebrates the Passover with His Family (Luke 2:41-43)**

a. **Biblical History of the Passover**

- i. The Feast or Celebration of the Passover was a remembrance of God's deliverance of His people from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12).
- ii. The Passover was a reminder of God's salvation-deliverance of His people.
- iii. A Passover Lamb was sacrificed to remind the people of God's death penalty for sin.
- iv. Jesus was to become God's final Passover Lamb who will be sacrificed by God himself in order to save his people!

^{ESV} **Exodus 12:1-7:** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷ "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

1 Corinthians 5:4-7: When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. ***For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.***

^{ESV} **John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ^{ESV} **John 1:36** and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

^{ESV} **Revelation 22:1-3:** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, ***flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb*** ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

b. Celebration of the Passover in Jesus' Time

- i. Jesus was *twelve years old* (2:42); it was at thirteen that an Israelite boy would become a "son of the commandment" (*Bar Mitzvah*) or full member of the synagogue (Mishnah, *Aboth* 5:21; *Niddah* 5:6).

Summary of Jesus' Education as a Jewish Boy

- As an "average Jewish boy" his mother Mary would have taught Jesus the history of Israel, God's saving acts of

redemption, particularly the meaning of the Exodus, the history of the Tribe of Judah, and he would have memorized much Scripture.

- Beginning when Jesus was six years old and continuing for five years Jesus would have studied the Pentateuch (the Five Books of Moses) beginning with the Book of Leviticus.
 - At twelve years of age, Jesus would have been prepared particularly at the Festivals (and most importantly the Passover Festival) for his becoming a man, or “son of the commandment.”
- ii. The *Mishnah* provides that a boy should be taken to the observance a year or two before he turned thirteen so that he might be prepared (*Yoma* 8:4) [Leon Morris, Commentary on Luke, pg. 100].
 - iii. According to Exodus 23:14-17, all Israelite males were required to attend at the Temple three times in the year at Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles:

^{ESV} **Exodus 23:14-17:** "Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me. ¹⁵You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. None shall appear before me empty-handed. ¹⁶You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor. ¹⁷Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord GOD.
 - iv. Attendance could be difficult because there were Israelites all over the Roman world, and many tried to make it at least once a year. Geldenhuys writes that it gradually became a fairly common practice for Jews outside Jerusalem to go only at the Passover (Luke, pg. 126).

c. Type and Anti-Type Meeting in the Person of Jesus Christ

III. **Jesus Worships and Learns in the Temple (Luke 2:44-51)**

- a. After the seven days of the festival (Exodus 13:6), Mary and Joseph travel home to Nazareth.

- b. Mary and Joseph traveled home in a group or caravan according to custom of the time (“a company of festival pilgrims”- Geldenhuys) (2:44ff). The women and children would travel in the front, and men and older boys in the back, and both Mary and Joseph could have thought Jesus was with the other (Commentary on Luke, Leon Morris, pg. 101).
- c. It is apparent from this passage that Mary and Joseph trusted Jesus because he was assumed to be coming home with everyone else. Jesus’ parents did not question that he would not be where he ought to be, just that they did not fully understand that Jesus would have stayed longer to learn in the Temple at Jerusalem.
- d. Jesus stays at the temple and takes advantage of the excellent teaching that is in Jerusalem while he is there (there would not have been those kind of able teachers in Nazareth).

i. What does this teach us about Jesus’ priorities in his life?

1. Jesus had a thirst and hunger for knowledge about God.
2. Jesus was a listener and a learner (2:46-47).
3. Jesus was an excellent student (2:47); the teachers are *amazed at his understanding and answers*.

***For Jesus, this trip to Jerusalem at the Feast of Passover was a major highlight of his life in growing intellectually, morally, spiritually and physically!
Why?***

Jesus was raised in rural Nazareth- -not a lot of books, not a lot of learning- -because not a lot of teachers in this obscure place.

For Jesus, going to Jerusalem as one who was perfectly hungry and thirsting for righteousness was like a rural person who studies engineering, who for the first time gets to learn at M. I. T.; Jesus is like a rural person who studies literature, getting to finally attend Oxford and Cambridge; Jesus was like a rural person gifted in fashion and making clothing finally getting his first visit to New York City; Jesus is like a rural person who is gifted in cooking, who finally gets to go to Paris; Jesus is like a

rural person gifted in government, the classics and politics and is finally about to study in Purcellville, VA (☺).

Jerusalem was THE place to study the Bible in all the world at this time, and Jesus wanted to take full advantage of the learning with these able doctor-teaches of the Scriptures!

ii. Was Jesus disobedient to his parents?

1. No (As the Apostle Paul might say “God forbid!”): Rather, we must to better understand and apprehend (not comprehend!) Jesus’ unique Divine Messianic Mission. Jesus did not disobey his parents as we learned earlier because he was without a sinful nature influencing him from within (In other words, Jesus was not being rebellious in the passage seeking freedom apart from his parent’s authority).

Jesus is in fact amazed or surprised that his parents wouldn’t understand where he had to be, and what he had to be about as God’s Son. Jesus is surprised because his perfect in his innocence as a human being (he is not being sinfully cunning or telling a fib to his parents, etc.).

Pastor Kent Hughes describes well Jesus’ priorities of staying in Jerusalem and at the same time not sinning against his parents because he is sinless:

“...[Jesus] was capable of *unknowingly* causing his parents distress; but as a sinless being, he was incapable of *knowingly* doing it. Here, Jesus unknowingly brought anxiety to Joseph and Mary.” (Luke, pg. 102).

2. **Mary asks: “Son, why have you treated us so?** You have caused us great distress” implying a reproach against them, as well as great anxiety as parents (ΟΔΓΝΟΜΕΝΟΙ –“ a major anxiety attack”; this shows Mary’s deep motherly love for Jesus.).
3. Jesus wonders why Mary and Joseph do not understand his priority and need (Greek: οὐκ οἶδμεν)

necessity “I must”) to be in his Father’s house-temple; he is amazed by her question:

“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

The question in this part of the text is: “To whom does Jesus owe his primary allegiance as the unique and Divine Son of God?”

4. Mary and Joseph as parents show that they are concerned for their son, but because of his unique mission as Messiah, they needed to trust his ultimate welfare to God His Father.
5. Mary and Joseph continue to ponder things in their hearts; they have been astonished, in wonderment, perplexed, confused, and Mary specifically continues to “treasure these things in her heart” (2:51). Mary and Joseph knew that Jesus was God’s Christ or Messiah, but they are continuing to grow as they better understand God’s revelation of Jesus’ Messianic Mission.

Geldenhuis comments: “...It was only after Jesus’ resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost that Mary realized fully who her Son was. And not until then would she be capable of really seeing in the true light the announcements of the angels, the supernatural conception, and so forth.” (Luke, pg. 128).

6. Even though Mary is Jesus’ mother, she is imperfect and fallible. She does not fully understand Jesus’ priorities as God’s Son.

“And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.”

iii. “My Father’s House”

1. “About my Father’s business” or “In my Father’s house”: Luke’s point here is both about *place and purpose*.

- a. **Place:** Jesus is focused on being in the Temple (“My Father’s House”) worshipping, serving, and learning.
 - b. **Purpose:** Self-consciously about “My Father’s business” so that he can accomplish his Father’s Messianic Mission.
2. Jesus says “my father” in response to Mary’s question which included “Your father and I...”
3. Jesus’ first words in Luke’s gospel indicating the priority of Jesus’ mission for His people.
- a. Jesus’ special relationship to God.
 - i. In the Old Testament, “Father” is used of God only fourteen times.
 - ii. The term “Father” in the Old Testament is never used by the saints to refer to God as “my Father”.
 - iii. Jesus is using “my Father” in a way that shows his special and unique relationship to God as Messianic Son.
 - b. Jesus shows the importance of service and worship of God.
 - c. All of Jesus’ earthly relationships must be subordinated to His divine mission from the Father as the Divine Son.
 - d. Yet Jesus understands that he will submit or be continuously obedient to his parents: “Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them...” (2:51).

e. “What would Jesus do?”...and us!

^{ESV} **Luke 2:40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

- In this passage, it seems that Luke wants us to know and understand Jesus' growth from perfect innocence as a child to perfect holiness as a man.

^{ESV} **Luke 2:52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Conclusion

- Jesus grew and matured and was perfected in holiness through his perfect obedience to God's Law.
- Jesus loved God with all of his heart, soul, mind, and strength, and his neighbor as himself.
- Because of Jesus' perfection, we can approach the throne of grace and receive our help and mercy from God in our time of need.
- Because of Jesus' perfection in our own flesh and humanity, no matter where we are in our life, ***no matter what age or level of maturity***, Jesus invites us to come to him to know and learn from him as we grow in holiness and conformity to his image!
- Jesus still is about his Father's business in His Father's house (cf. John 14:6), ruling and reigning from God's right hand as our Mediator, and living ever to intercede for his people. Our hope for the present and future is where Jesus is ministering now:

^{ESV} **John 14:1-6**: "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² ***In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*** ³ ***And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*** ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Because of Jesus' perfection, we can hope in the perfection of our bodies and souls (our whole man), as he sanctifies us more and more, and as we await the Resurrection of the Dead, and the glorification of our bodies!

^{ESV} **Romans 8:14-25**: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall

back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ ***And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.***²⁴ ***For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?***²⁵ ***But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.***

^{ESV} **Hebrews 12:18-25:** For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

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^{ESV} **Luke 2:40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. [Jesus grows up, learning as a human, and God’s special favor is upon him to complete the mission for which he has been sent].

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. [The Passover was a feast that celebrated God’s redemption from Egypt, and the night the Angel of Death passed over God’s elect, Exodus 12].

⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. [Jesus is worshipping God, and learning about God from the teachers; as he is growing up, he is understanding and able to answer questions about God and the salvation of his people].

⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?" [Here we must keep in mind that Jesus did not sin, but that he was about his mission, and he was where he was supposed to be “in His Father’s house”].

⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. [Jesus shows his submission to his parents; He is God’s son and Mary’s son. He is seeking God as his main priority, but he is submissive to his earthly mother and father according to the fifth commandment as one who fulfills God’s law perfectly with all his heart, soul, mind and strength].

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. [Jesus continues to grow in wisdom, and in body, and in favor with both God and man].