

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

December 12, 2018

The Gospel of Luke

*The Presentation of Jesus*

Topics – Luke 2; Jesus' childhood; Anna; Simeon;

Text – Luke 2:41 - 52

### Introduction

When we last left the Lord Jesus v. 39 tells us they went back to Nazareth. Today's text fast forwards the narrative twelve years. However, Matthew records some events that happen in-between. [See Matthew 2](#)

- A. The wise men are following a star.
- B. They erroneously think that the star is leading them to Jerusalem and they go to Herod and he sends them to Bethlehem.
- C. When they leave the city, the star re-appears.
- D. They travel following the star to where the child is and present the child gifts.
- E. They return avoiding Jerusalem. Herod kills the children in Bethlehem.
- F. Joseph and Mary flee into Egypt after being warned by the angel of the Lord.
- G. Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth after the death of Herod.

Twelve years later, in Luke 2:41, Jesus is a twelve year old boy.

We all have many memories from our childhood years: some are great; others, not so much. Our childhood and especially our teen years were a huge part of our lives. An autobiography on any life seems incomplete without information from their youth. Yet, there are very few details regarding Jesus' boyhood in the Scriptures. I am not quite sure why the Bible is silent in this area. I for one would be very interested to discover the exploits of Jesus as young boy. We know that He never got into trouble, because Hebrews 4:15 tells us He was "without sin." But, did he like to go fishing? What games did he participate in? Who were his friends? Did He play any pranks on His younger brothers and sisters? This would all make for pretty good reading. But, for some reason, God has chosen to leave much of the scoop about Jesus' early years out of the Word of God.

Luke's gospel contains the only passage of Scripture which includes an event from Jesus' life after his birth, and before his ministry years. The last portion of Scripture that we examined (Luke 2:21 – 40) dealt with Jesus' presentation to the Lord at the temple when He was just a few weeks old – 42 days old to be precise. In verse 41 of Luke we fast forward twelve years and follow the family of Jesus as they make one of their annual pilgrimages to the temple in Jerusalem.

### I Joseph and Mary were Faithful (vs. 41 - 42)

At twelve years of age Jesus would be considered a young man and would be expected to present himself before the Lord as was commanded by the Old Testament Law.

*"Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty: Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee." (Deuteronomy 16:16-17; also Exodus 23:14-17)*

You will notice that both of Jesus' parents were both faithful to fulfill this obligation every year, even though only the men were required. It is important that parents be faithful to the Lord.

*"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6)*

Parents who wish to honour the Lord and raise children obedient to the Lord need to be faithful to do that which the Lord commands.

- 1 Be faithful in your church attendance
- 2 Be faithful in your giving
- 3 Be faithful in your soul winning and serving.

## **II Jesus was Found in the Temple (vs. 43 – 46)**

After being missing for more three days, Jesus was found back at the temple.

Illustrate – Melissa was missing at the mall. Sam was left in the car when I went into the restaurant.

Apparently, when his family and neighbors left, Jesus remained. Jesus could not get enough of the House of God.

Some folks need to be dragged into church, but Jesus didn't want to leave.

Illustration – One of the signs of a healthy church is when people are not in a hurry to leave. They don't want the service to be rushed, and they like to stick around to fellowship afterwards.

## **III Jesus was Focused and the Doctors were Fascinated (vs. 46 – 50)**

Notice that Jesus was hearing the teachers and asking questions. The doctors of the Law were amazed at Jesus' comprehension and zeal for the Word of God.

Joseph was Jesus' legal father, but Jesus answer indicated that God was His Father. God the Father's business was in the Temple, and that is where Jesus was.

Notice that Jesus' was subject unto His parents:

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)*

*"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." (Colossians 3:20)*

As a child Jesus always obeyed His earthly parents, and as both child and man, He always obeyed His Heavenly Father:

*"Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 8:28-29)*

## **IV Jesus was Favoured by God and Man (vs. 51 – 52)**

How can an infinite God increase in both wisdom and stature? Well the stature part is easy to figure out. He was in a human body, and He was growing. How can God increase in wisdom though? I think the answer is in the fact that as a human being, people increasingly understood and observed the nature of God in Him. Jesus' deity was veiled by His humanity. He could have done anything that God can do, but instead He acted much like any other boy his age, except for the fact that He did not sin. He looked like an average boy, He played, He skinned His knee, He had chores to do. He did not walk around with a halo around His head.

There is nothing else recorded in Scripture from Jesus' life until He begins his earthly ministry eighteen years later at the age of 30.