

Jesus' Childhood - Luke 2:41-52

First Southern Baptist Church - 9-15-21

1. Raised in Church - verse 41

- A. The law - required every male to go to Jerusalem each year for Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles - Ex. 23:14-17; 43:23; Dt 16:16
- B. Women were not required to come but many did - as here - it was considered a sign of unusual spiritual devotion for the women to go
- C. Required to go three times a year (Ex. 23) but they go only once
 - the dispersion made going three times a year impossible, but the especially devout still went every year at Passover (tells us much about His parents)
- D. The trip was 80 miles - a particularly strenuous journey
- E. Probably a caravan - for safety sake - note the word "company"
- F. Customary for men and boys to follow behind the women and smaller children
- G. Jerusalem would have been teeming with thousands of fellow pilgrims, who would have been trying to find lodging, food and a place to celebrate the Passover
 - so, there would have been sellers of animals, beggars in rags, and priests butchering animals everywhere
- H. Five times in chapter 2 we find an act performed "in accordance" with the law
 - *here, Jesus was taken every year

2. Lost in Church - verses 42-46

- A. Possible that Mary had other children to look after by this time
- B. "Fulfilled the days" - spent the entire 8 days of Passover and Unleavened Bread
 - was common to stay for only a part of the days of festival
 - again, shows the devotion of Mary and Joseph
- C. Jesus "tarried"
- D. Was it a day's journey toward home
 - then a day's journey back
 - then a day's journey searching?
- E. Easy to assume that He was with the other parent - in a long caravan, you might not see one another all day
- F. Mary was no dispassionate mom - "sought thee sorrowing"
 - note that both parents sought Him (verse 48) - "thy father and I"

3. Astonishing the Leaders - verses 46-47

- A. Customary for the Sanhedrin to meet in the public area of the Temple to discuss religious and theological questions
- B. "Doctors" - is "teachers" or "*didaskalos*"
 - a word that is reserved for John the Baptist and Jesus in the rest of the gospel
- C. The dialogue method was used at the temple
 - the Greek word is "*dialegomai*" and means to "discuss"
 - it is question and answer
- D. Note two activities of Jesus:
 - 1) Listening
 - 2) Asking

- E. Shows a thirst for knowledge - making the most of His opportunity while in Jerusalem
- F. How did He know the scriptures?
 - was not by miracle, but by devout training by His parents from an early age
- G. “Astonished”

4. My Father’s Business - verses 47-50

- A. The exchange
 - 1) Most mom’s can appreciate Mary’s rebuke of Jesus
 - 2) “Son why have you treated us this way?”
 - Mary’s exasperation
 - a mom’s attempt to make her son feel guilty?
 - 3) “Thy father and I”
 - “My father’s business
 - Jesus is moving/ transitioning to adulthood - his responsibility to God was taking the first place of his responsibility to parents
- B. Jesus seems almost surprised that she would not know
- C. Jesus already knows of His relationship with His “Father”
 - the first required words of the Messiah are about His Father, and His relationship to Him
 - He calls Himself “Son of God”
 - before Jesus no one had the audacity to claim God as their father
- D. The biblical teaching that Jesus is the Son of God is clear and unmistakable
 - 1) The angel told Mary before His birth - He will be the *Son of God* - Lk 1:35
 - 2) Jesus often referred to Himself as the “*Son of God*” - 10:21-22; Jn 6:39-40; 8:18-19, 28-29, 38, 49; Rev 2:18
 - 3) Mark opened his gospel with this claim - Mk 1:1
- E. Jesus claim to be God’s Son above all else infuriated His Jewish enemies:
 - 1) My father is working and I am working - Jn 5:17
 - 2) Accused Him of blasphemy for claiming God as father - Jn 10:36
 - 3) We have a law and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God - Jn 18:7
- F. Such a claim -to be God’s Son was a claim to deity
- G. Note the urgency: “I must”
 - 1) Felt a sense of relationship to God
 - 2) Felt a responsibility to God
 - a duty to be there, and be about this
 - 3) Felt a response to that responsibility

5. Life at Home -verse 51

- A. “Subject” - obedient
- B. His relationship to His heavenly father did not do away with His responsibility to obey His earthly parents
- C. Last reference to Joseph
 - so Joseph was alive when Jesus was 12 - he was around when Jesus was small
- D. Remains at home till it is time to begin His mission - 30 years old (3:23)
 - Contrast of Jesus with John

John remains in the wilderness

Jesus remains at home

E. Mary treasures these things - the Greek says she kept these things “thoroughly”

6. Summary of Jesus’ Childhood - verse 52

A. Grows in all areas

-physically

-socially (favor with man) - John’s sternness (1:80) kept him from attractiveness with men. The real man of God does not despise earthly ties.

-spiritually (favor with God)

B. Grows - “increased” - like an advancing army hacks its way through the forest

-“advanced” in

Wisdom - to face problems, to find out information

Stature - physically grew up

Grace -

-subject to normal human growth process

-to “grow” does not mean that one is imperfect... at each stage He was perfect for that stage”

C. “Favor” translates “grace”

D. See Him next at 30 years old (3:23) when He enters the ministry - at His baptism

Conclusions: -so what do we know about Jesus’ life up until age 30?

1. A carpenter - Mk 6:3

2. A poor home - mom and dad did not have the required sacrifice

3. Raised with devout parents - 5 times in chapter 2 - “according to the law”

-an example - circumcised

-an example - to Passover “every year”

-taught the law early (before 12 years old)

4. Raised obedient - was “subject to them”