

Luke 2:40-52 – Your father... My Father

Introduction: Curiosity, Legend, Truth

1. Curiosity
 - a. What was it like to have a sinless son/brother?
 - b. How tall was Jesus? What was His personality like?
 - c. We only have one inspired text about Jesus as a child
2. Legend
 - a. *The Gospel of Thomas*, 2nd Century (Gnostic Writing)
 - b. *The Arabic Infancy Gospel*, 1299 A.D.
 - c. Contrasted with Luke – Jesus is ordinary, normal, meek, mild, subtle (not crafty, callous, mean)
3. Why do we have this one Event? Why is it important?

Main Idea: Jesus at an early age understood who He was and intentionally chose to be about His Heavenly Father's business.

Jesus' Early Childhood (vv 40, 52)

1. Jesus grew physically
2. The grace (favor) of God was upon Jesus
3. Jesus grew wise – strong with wisdom
 - a. Jesus needed to grow inwardly, with God's wisdom
 - b. Jesus was 100% Human
 - c. Jesus was wiser at 12, than 10 – 30, than 20
4. Jesus was perfect, pure, sinless – but still grew
5. Jesus was not pretending to be a man
6. Jesus learned and gained knowledge
7. Jesus came to this earth, He emptied Himself (**Phil 2:5-7**)
 - a. Jesus never lost His divine attributes, but limited their use of them
 - b. Ex: He did not know when His Second Coming was (**Mark 13:32**)
 - c. Only knew what His Father revealed to Him (**John 12:49**)
8. Jesus went through natural human development, yet never sinned
9. Jesus learned obedience (not that He was disobedient) (**Hebrews 5:8**)
 - a. He stepped into human suffering and experienced trials, temptations, and the full experience of humanity

Jesus, the 12 Year Old (vv 41-51)

1. Jesus' parents were devout – observed Passover every year
 - a. Joseph followed the Law of Moses (**Lk 2:22-24, 39**)
 - b. Jesus' parents reared Him according the Law

2. Jesus' 12th year is significant – a transition from boyhood to manhood (Would become Son of the Commandment)
3. Jesus stays in Jerusalem
 - a. His parents think He is with them
 - b. They travel an entire day not knowing Jesus is missing
 - c. Jesus disregards His parents' time and feelings – not sinfully, but demonstrating something about Himself
4. The Sanhedrin made it a custom to meet publicly during Passover to discuss religious and theological questions
 - a. Jesus went to the Temple to learn and grow in wisdom
 - b. Jesus asks questions, gains insight – had an appetite for God's Word; Astonished listeners with His understanding
 - c. Jesus may have connected dots the teachers had not seen before
5. Jesus read the Word and kept the Word (**Psalm 119:99-100**)
6. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple: They were in distress, like a normal parent would be
7. Jesus' Response (Main Point of the Passage) – Verse 49
 - a. First time Jesus speaks in the Gospels
 - b. "You should have known where I would be" (**Psalm 27:4**)
 - i. Jesus loved His Father and was about His business
 - c. Jesus already understand Himself to be the Son of God – He identifies God as His Father
 - i. Either Jesus is neurotic, arrogant, or God Incarnate
 - ii. Jesus makes Himself equal with God
 - d. Jesus is awakened to His mission from God the Father
 - i. There is a beginning separation from His parents (**Luke 2:34-35**)
 - ii. Separation would continue throughout Jesus' ministry
 - e. Mary's scolding – "Your father and I"
 - i. Jesus chose to reveal that He knew who His real Father was and what it will mean for Him
 - ii. Jesus' devotion to the Father & His mission to God's purposes would take priority over His closest kin
8. Mary and Joseph did not understand Jesus' saying
9. Jesus still honored His parents
 - a. Jesus was their King and Savior
 - b. Jesus was growing more in Wisdom and Knowledge
 - c. Jesus still recognizes His earthly authority
 - d. Jesus is powerful, yet humble and honorable

Application:

1. Recognize & Encourage those with zeal for God & His Word
2. Listen, ask questions, seek answers in the Word of God
3. Go where Jesus is Found – Go to the Word of God