



The Boy Jesus

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Luke 2:39-52

Adult Church School

July 27, 2020

Ecclesiastes

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

Luke 2:39-52

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

Luke 2:39-52 cont...

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions

⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Understanding the Times

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1,7** introduces us to the importance of regularity of life. The writer considers how life begins, develops, and ends in consistent cycles.
- The **wise person** will understand those cycles and live in harmony with them.



Setting of the Story: The Passover

- This story found only in the book of *Luke* is important because it concludes the infancy section of **Jesus'** life with Him emerging as a young man who is *thinking for Himself*.
- **Jesus'** parents (devout Jews) were completing their yearly pilgrimage from Galilee to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover." (2:41)
- The **Passover** was the most important Jewish festival commemorating the exodus of the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt
- The **Passover** celebration brought large numbers of pilgrims to Jerusalem where they would participate in sacrifices in the **Temple** and eat a sacred meal of symbolic foods ***to recall their bitter hardship in Egypt.***

Growth in Wisdom

- *Luke* frames this story with parallel summary statements at the beginning and the end that states that ***Jesus grew in wisdom, strength, and favor*** (Luke 2:40, 52).
- Between the two summaries is the story of a *precocious* and possibly an *inconsiderate* child (12 years old) who, in pursuit of **His vocation**, manages to worry and annoy His parents.
- In a caravan of friends and relatives traveling back to **Galilee**, a young boy could easily not be missed until the end of the day's journey.
- The **parents** discover after one day's return journey (about 25 miles) that Jesus is not with them. They do not find Him until the third day.

A Family Affair

- The Parents find Jesus sitting among the teachers in the Temple. Jesus' **wisdom** caused Israel's leading teachers to be amazed. Luke wanted his readers to see in this story the unique wisdom of God's Son.
- **Mary** is once again the focal figure in Luke's account. Joseph and Mary were astounded when they saw Jesus talking with the teachers. She questions Jesus as to why He has treated His parents so insensitively and left them anxious.
- **Jesus'** reply, "Did you not know that I must be in/about the things of my **Father**", points to a **divine necessity** in what Jesus does. Jesus is destined to do this.
- The **Temple** was the place of **God's** presence. It was only appropriate that **Jesus** would be engaged in discussion about **God** in a place where His presence is highlighted.

The Wisdom to Know Your Call

- **Luke** was informing his readers that ultimately **Jesus'** unique relationship with God will be a priority over any familial duty or custom.
- **Jesus'** strong sense of identity with and relationship to God is foreshadowed in this passage.
- Luke wanted his readers to know that **Jesus'** strong sense of mission expressed itself early on.
- Luke makes it clear that what **Jesus** meant (His vocation/calling) was not initially understood by His parents.
- An obedient **Jesus** returned with his parents to Nazareth as Mary pondered these things in her heart.

Group Chat

- At the age of 12, Jesus knew that He was God's Son and that He possessed a unique calling. As Jesus' disciples how does this story help you in responding to God's call on your life?
- List those things that provide distractions to you that prevent you from focusing on God's call on your life.
- Why did Mary have a difficult time understanding Jesus' mission?

Future Lessons

| Date | Lesson | Scripture |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 3, 2020 | The Wisdom of Jesus | Mark 6:1-6; 7:1-23 |
| August 10, 2020 | Wisdom to Follow | Proverbs 3:17; 8:32-36; John 14:1-14 |
| August 17, 2020 | Faith and Wisdom | James 1:1-11 |
| August 24, 2020 | Hearing and Doing | James 1:19-27 |