

Luke 2.39-52

“A Boy in His Father’s House”

Luke > MARVELOUS News of INCARNATION > God became a Baby

LUKE – only event of Jesus life btwn INFANCY & PUBLIC MINISTRY – 30

NOT Mention coming of MAGI or Holy Family’s TRIP to EGYPT > Matthew

GOSPEL – good news / not biography - Book of Salvation about Savior

Purpose 19.10? “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost”

REASON WHY 1/3 of Gospel Record is on Last Week of Jesus’ on Earth

HOLY WEEK – Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday – ACCOMPLISHMENT

1. The Parents

a. Faithful – Mary and Joseph were good and godly parents

v. 39 “did everything required by the Law of the Lord”

v. 41 “Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover”

5 X’s Luke EMPHASIZES their OBEDIENCE to the LAW of God

LAW OF GOD THRU MOSES – “3 X’s year you are to celebrate...Feast of Unleavened Bread...Feast of Harvest...Feast of Ingathering” Exodus 23.14-17

AFTER JEWISH CAPTIVITY AND EXILE – BEST WENT ONLY ONCE

Not all were faithful to do even that

REQUIRED FOR MEN – but Mary and Jesus went too > RIGHTEOUS Family

COULD HAVE HAD ENOUGH TRAVELING AFTER JESUS BIRTH

Went 70 miles – Nazareth to Bethlehem – 9 months pregnant

THEN – Longer Trip to Egypt – Infant Jesus – No Disposable Diapers

ENOUGH TO MAKE MOST MOTHERS GIVE UP ON LONG TRIPS

GODLY CHARACTER – Annunciation - “I am the Lord’s servant” Luke 1.38

Magnificat “my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant” Luke 1.47

HONORED BY GOD - “Blessed are you among women” Luke 1.42

PARENTS TODAY - DO WELL TO STUDY THEIR FAITHFULNESS

Best way to help CHILDREN LOVE the Church is if you LOVE and SERVE

DANGER WHEN NOT KEPT ALIVE IN EACH GENERATION

To our forefathers, faith was an experience

To our fathers, faith was an inheritance

To us, faith is a convenience

To our children, faith is a nuisance

May LIVING Faith live in us and flow from us to many generations

b. Fretful – Good parents but Not Perfect Parents

“Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father & I have been anxiously searching for You
Luke 2.48

UNDERSTANDABLE ANXIETY – she had lost her first-born son

Still PONDERING Words of SIMEON: Simeon blessed them and said to Mary...“*And a sword will pierce your own soul too*”
Luke 2.34,35

TRIP TO FEASTS – worshippers traveled in CARAVANS

Men in Front / Women & small children in rear // TEENS ON THEIR OWN?

Mary and Joseph each thought Jesus was with THE OTHER ONE

“After three days they found him” Luke 2.46

ANXIETY ESCALATED TO ANGER – Fear, Embarrassment, Heartache

1) Traveling Back Home 2) Returning to Jerusalem 3) Looking in Jerusalem

HARD TO TRUST GOD WITH YOUR CHILDREN – PRECIOUS GIFT

Mary faced the temptation that all parents face to raise a child more out of fear over what could go wrong than by faith in what God could do. Mary’s question came from her fears.

Philip Ryken

Biggest reason Young People do not do Mission Work – Parents Not Support

HARD LESSON – He who gave our children / Best Job of keeping them!

Adoniram Judson – Graduated from Theological Seminary in early 1800’s

CALLED to be Ass’t Pastor – Famous, Fashionable Church in Boston

FAMILY WAS HAPPY AND PROUD – son shocked parents and said

“God is calling me beyond the seas. To stay and serve God in Boston would only be a partial obedience, I could not be happy with that” Adoniram Judson

America’s FIRST MISSIONARY – Burma / Myanmar – 50,000 converts

c. Fortunate – Good parents blessed with VERY GOOD BOY

child grew & became strong; he was filled w wisdom & grace of God upon him Luke 2.40

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” Luke 2.52

OFTEN EDUCATION BASED ON NEGATIVISM, CRITICISM, SHAME

Study of One Classroom – all students were about the same intellectual level

Teacher told – $\frac{1}{2}$ were EXCEPTIONAL / $\frac{1}{2}$ AVERAGE

END OF YEAR “EXCEPTIONAL” – improved by full grade point / not others

DIFFERENCE? – teacher’s positive, and expectant treatment of exceptional

PARENTS & TEACHERS – ALL POSITIVE AND EXPECTANT
CATCH THEM BEING GOOD – AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE THEM

Train a child in way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22.6

NOT PROMISE that Every Child of Christians will BE SAVED TOO
PRINCIPLE > Direction you POINT THEM as they Grow LIKELY to God
PARENTS of the SON of God > IMPERFECT but SINCERE in Efforts

2. The Boy Jesus

VERY SPECIAL CHILD OF MARY – fullness of God and man
Travelers in Caravan to Festival – DID NOT SEE HALO, ICON, SUPERMAN

a. Son of the Law v. 42 “When he was twelve years old”

SIGNIFICANT SPIRITUAL PASSAGE / BAR MITZVAH at 13

Son of the Law: JEWS PASSAGE to RESPONSIBILITY

Rabbis: at 12 Son should go w Father to Jerusalem & learn Passover Rituals

ISRAEL’S BEST TEACHERS GATHERED FOR THIS FEAST

v. 46 “sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking questions”

“Here O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up”
Deuteronomy 6.4-7

CONSTITUTION OF ISRAEL – God is One / Love Him / Share Him

First word to parents – NOT TELL KIDS WHAT TO DO – Love God & Obey

LIFE EXAMPLE IS MOST POWERFUL LESSON

TEACHING– IN LIFE, NOT JUST LABORATORY / practice, not theory

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISOLATION AND INOCULATION

MANY PARENTS TRY to GIVE SPIRITUAL TRAINING BY ISOLATION

SHELTERING KIDS FROM WORLD – no, no, no, don’t do this or that

POSSIBLE WHEN THEY’RE YOUNG

OLDER – HARD TO KEEP THEM IN THE SHELTER – BREAK OUT!

ISOLATION “when the commandment came, sin sprang to life” Romans 7.9

LAW IN THE EARS OF SINNERS AROUSES THEIR APPETITES

DO NOT DO THIS – IT IS BAD = “I cannot wait to try it”

INOCULATION Give someone a small dose of disease to allow their body time to build up a resistance to real thing // Talk about them when you sit at home & when you walk along the road, when you lie down & when you get up

TEACH THEM TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD AS GOD’S PILGRIM

BIRDS CAN FLY OVER OUR HEAD / DON’T HAVE TO NEST IN HAIR

VALUES, MORALS, STYLES, APPETITES, OPINIONS – CHRIST FIRST

SEX-SATURATED SOCIETY – Isolation – Sex is Bad = Looks Good to Me!

Inoculation – Sex is Great Gift from God – GIVER SETS TERMS OF USE

MARRIAGE PROPER CONTEXT – No Practice Needed – You’ll learn

b. Son of God v. 48 “your father and I have been anxiously looking for you”

FRANTIC PARENTS > TONE of HURT, FEAR, EXASPERATION

LAST TIME IN SCRIPTURE JOSEPH MENTIONED – Jesus’ step-father

v. 49 “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 1st Words of Jesus RECORDED in Bible > DEFINES WHO He is and WHAT He came to Do

MY FATHER! > NO ONE in Bible EVER had Said THAT!

FATHERHOOD of God mentioned COUPLE Times in OT

Abraham, Enock, Moses, David, & Prophets NEVER call GOD My Father!

Jesus casually said this as MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD!

Perhaps MAIN Reason Luke includes this Story > CITE THESE WORDS

Jesus was RIGHT Where He was SUPPOSED TO BE

NOT SINNING AGAINST his Parents or Disobeying their INSTRUCTIONS

NOT SMART-ALEK is AMAZED they did NOT KNOW this about Him

Angel: “the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God” Luke 1.35

GOD & MAN from BIRTH – KNEW IT – GROWING AWARENESS

As the incarnate Son, Jesus knew God as Father even when he was a boy... Already at this young age he was speaking to God the way he (spoke) to him when he was a man, the way he taught us to speak to God, calls him “Father.” Philip Ryken

Public Declaration as Jesus began Public Ministry: “a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son whom I love, with you I am well pleased” Luke 3.22

AT HIS TRIAL HIS ENEMIES ASK “Are you the Son of God?” He replied, “You are right in saying that I am.” Luke 22.70

“I Dared to Call Him Father: The Miraculous Story of a Muslim Woman’s Encounter with God”
by Bilquis Sheikh

c. Son of Favor v. 52 grew in favor with God and man

Elizabeth to her cousin Mary “Blessed is the child you will bear” Luke 1.42

Jesus was a Normal, Growing Boy – Grew in Every Way – Grew even Better

The great historic doctrine of the church is that God the Son became a real man...(He) placed the exercise of his all-powerfulness and all-presence and all-knowingness under the direction of God the Father. He did not give up those attributes, but he submitted their exercise in his life to the Father’s discretion.

R. Kent Hughes

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” Hebrews 5.7

SPECIAL SON- NOT SPOILED SON – Qualified to SAVE thru SUFFERING

SYMPATHETIC SAVIOR – Fully UNDERSTANDS > Fully EXPERIENCED

TOUCHED by OUR INFIRMITIES > FELT THEM HIMSELF as REAL Man

GROWTH IN FAVOR TRACED BY LUKE

Baptism “You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased” 3.22

“He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him” Luke 4.15

“All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words which came from his lips 4.22

3. The Christian

LESSONS FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN FOLLOWING THIS JESUS

a. Obedient, Yet Misunderstood 2.47 “Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding”

NOT Parents 2.50 “But they did not understand what he was saying to them”

2.51 “Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them”

“THEN” – shows a Readiness and Immediacy of Obedience

HOW MANY TIMES DO PARENTS HAVE TO CALL US TO OBEY?

JESUS DID NOT SAY “Just a minute, let me hear one more sermon...”

“WITH THEM” – was not the arrogant little brat of the Caravan home

12 year old son who went with his Humble, and Sinful, Parents

“OBEDIENT” – How could the perfect submit to the imperfect?

What could they possibly teach him? What did they know compared to Him?

THESE ARE QUESTIONS MY THREE SONS OFTEN ASKED AT HOME!

POSITION OF SUBMISSION / PLACE OF BLESSING AND GROWTH

Goes Against our Nature to Submit – Children to Parents – Employee to Boss – Wives to Husbands, Members to Elders, Citizens to Political Leaders

PAINFUL TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY ANYONE – ESP. PARENTS

Following a Master who has been there

DID THE RIGHT THING EVEN WHEN MISUNDERSTOOD

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. But wisdom is proved right by her children” Luke 7.34

Asked disciples “Who do men say that I am? Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets” Luke 9.18

b. Growing in Wisdom and Favor with God and man

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

JESUS – our Savior and Lord – ALSO OUR RIGHTEOUS EXAMPLE

Example – FOR YOUTH and Parents / WWJD – question for us all

MAY OUR CHILDREN & PARENTS – GROW IN FAVOR WITH GOD

v. 49 “I must be in the things of my Father” *literal translation*

CONTEXT for Jesus was TEMPLE > WIDER APPLICATION

LIKE JESUS – OUR GROWTH IS PAINFUL – PRAYERS AND TEARS

“For those God foreknew he also predestinated to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the first among many brothers” Rom 8.29

CONFORMITY MEANS CRUCIFIXION – death to sin, daily consecration

IS OUR FAITH GROWING WITH US INTO ADULTHOOD

TELL OUR CHILDREN THEY NEED AT LEAST A MASTER’S DEGREE

MASTER’S LEVEL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD & HIS WORD??

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." John 8.31

LAST VERSE of 2 Peter > LAST LETTER of OLD MAN NEAR DEATH

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3.18

c. Family Torn, Yet Made New

EVEN AT THAT TENDER AGE OF 12 – HE KNEW HIS REAL FATHER

PEACE ONLY WHEN REAL MOTHER FOLLOWED HIS REAL FATHER

HE WAS NOT LOST – IN HIS FATHER’S HOUSE

AS AN ADULT HIS FAMILY CAME TO VISIT “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice” Luke 8.21

LATER – “Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you but division...father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother” Luke 12.51-53

NOTHING SHOULD RIVAL OUR LOVE AND LOYALTY TO GOD

IF FAMILY TRIES TO SIT ON GOD’S THRONE – WILL BE DEPOSED

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, even his wife and children, his brothers and sisters --- yes, even his own life --- he cannot be my disciple”

Luke 14.26

LOVE FOR JESUS SHOULD BE VASTLY, INCOMPARABLY GREATER

“Marriage can be a great blessing or great curse, depending on where you place the cross”

C.T. Studd

d. Lonely, Yet Not Alone Street kids live alone wOut Parents

ANXIETY IN HIS MOTHER’S VOICE – BUT NOT HIS

PEACEFULLY REPORTED “I am in my Father’s house”

WORLD HAS NO PLACE FOR JESUS / BIRTH – Laid in a feeding trough

LIFE Son of Man nowhere to lay his head/ DEATH Only place world found for Jesus – Cross

Luke had a special interest in Prayer > Key part of Jesus Life

There are 11 stories contained in all three Synoptics (Matthew/Mark/Luke) in which only Luke adds information about prayer:

“Jesus was baptized too & *as he was praying*, heaven was opened” Luke 3.21

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” Luke 5.16

Seeing Jesus pray prompts the disciples to be taught to pray: “One day *Jesus was praying* in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “*Lord, teach us to pray...*” Luke 11.1

Only Luke records Jesus prayer from the Cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23.34

Jesus final prayer on earth is only recorded by Luke: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Luke 23.46

Jesus, as Luke presents Him, is a man constantly at prayer, whose ministry was shaped by prayer, and who lived in constant communion with His Father.

LONELY, BUT NOT ALONE / This is my Father’s world, Oh let me never forget, and though the wrong seems oh so strong, God is the ruler yet.

Congregational Prayer – Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! / **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. / **Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. / **Such knowledge is too wonder-ful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? **If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!** If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, / **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," / **even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. / **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you...

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

See if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
Amen and Amen