

Home Group Helps

Luke 2:39-52

Jesus Grows Up

I. Jesus as a Child (v.39-40) – ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

II. Jesus at Age Twelve (v.41-51) – ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

III. Jesus as a Young Adult (v.52) – ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Have you ever experienced the panic of losing a precious possession or even a child?

2. Observation Question(s):

- What similarities in growth and development does Jesus have with other human children (v.40)?
- What is different about Jesus?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In the sermon, we considered several false understandings of the incarnation:
 1. **Apollinarianism** – argued that Jesus had a human body and sensitive human soul, but a divine mind and not a human rational mind.
 2. **Monophysite heresy** – If Jesus was one person, He must have had only one nature, and that one nature was a blend of deity and humanity.
 3. **Nestorianism** – If Christ has two natures, a human nature and a divine nature, then He must also be two persons, human and divine.
- How does the statement from the Councils of Ephesus (431) and Chalcedon (451) that Jesus was "truly man and truly God" help clarify the issue?

- How does this portion of the Athanasian Creed help your understanding?:
“He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother, born in time; completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity.”
- Why is it significant that Jesus called God “my father?”
- Does this kind of intimacy with God belong to the Christian as well (Gal. 4:4-9)?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Some have accused Jesus of sinning by dishonoring his parents in being left behind in Jerusalem. Why would that not be the case?
- Why do you think that Jesus permitted this event to occur?
- Why do you think Luke recorded this one event from Jesus’ life?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might you develop the type of consuming interest in your Father in heaven that Jesus had?

January 14th, AD 2024