

## ***“The Child Jesus”***

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Luke 2:40-52 (text vs. 40–“...*the child grew...*” v. 43–“...*the child Jesus...*”)

The four Gospels do not give a full biography of Christ's life (John 21:25). The Scripture passes over most of the formative years of Jesus' childhood. We do read of...

1. His dedication at the Temple shortly after His birth (Luke 2:21-24).
2. The testimony of Simeon and Anna at the Temple (Luke 2:25-38).
3. The visit by the wise men when He was about two years old (Mt. 2).
4. He was taken to Egypt until the death of Herod, then returned to Nazareth (Mt. 2:23).

Once a year Joseph and Mary traveled Nazareth to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast (vs. 41-42). On this trip, they took Jesus, who was 12 years old.

### **I. The MISPLACING of Christ** (vs. 43-45).

- A. The PEOPLE who lost Christ—Mary and Joseph—The ones you would least expect to lose Christ.
1. Mary and Joseph were normal parents. What happened to them, happens to many parents at some time or another—They lost track of their son.

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ILLUS: Losing Ruth (behind the pulpit) in Redmond.

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2. No Christian can lose Jesus during this dispensation of grace. But, there is a sense when a Christian may lose the fellowship of Christ. Joseph and Mary did not lose their RELATIONSHIP with Jesus (He was still their son), but they lost His FELLOWSHIP.
- B. The PROBLEM—They lost Him—He didn't lose them. It was their problem, not Christ's. It was their responsibility to know His whereabouts.
- Mary's complaint (v. 48) is like many when they lose touch with the Lord—They try to blame God for any distress in their lives.

- C. The POINT in time (v. 44). They lost Him in one day. You can do something in one day for which you will reap the consequences the rest of your life (David and Bathsheba).
- D. The PRESUMPTION (v. 44). They lost Him and didn't even know it. They assumed Jesus was with them. They had already traveled one day's journey before they realized they lost His presence.

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Mary to Joseph: "Where is Jesus?"

Joseph to Mary: "I don't know... I thought He was with you."

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- Samson presumed God was with him when He was not (Judg. 16:20).
  - Israel went up against the city of Ai presuming God was with them when He was not (Josh. 7).
- E. The PAIN (v. 48). Fear and sorrow. When a person is out of fellowship with the Lord, they lose the joy of their salvation and peace of God.
- F. The PLACE—Lost Christ at the house of God.
- You don't have to go to a tavern or casino to lose Christ's fellowship—You can lose Him right here in church.
  - The Ephesians are an example (Rev. 2:1-5).
- G. The PURSUING (v. 48)—Why did it take THREE days to find Him?
1. First, they looked in the wrong places (v. 44). If someone were looking for you, where would be the first place they would look? The mall? A friend's house? A tavern? Church?
  2. They found Him where they left Him (vs. 46).
  3. They found Him doing God's will (v. 49).

## II. The MISSION of Christ (vs. 46-49).

➡ The first recorded words spoken by Jesus.

A. His AWARENESS of who He is—The Son of God.

➡ How did He become aware of His true identity and mission? Where is He at? He's in His Father's house (not Joseph's).

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There on the scribe's table is a scroll. Jesus opens it to Psalm 2:7 and reads, "*Thou are my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*" The Holy Ghost says to Jesus, "That's You." Jesus picks up another scroll and reads, "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...*" Again the Holy Ghost speaks to Jesus, "That's talking about You." The Bible says, "*Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of THE BOOK it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God*" (Heb. 10:7). God used His Word to show "*the child Jesus*" who He was.

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B. His ATTENTIVENESS—Jesus heard the doctors of the Law and asks them questions they could not answer. He astonishes them with His understanding and answers.

➡ This set the tone for His earthly ministry:

- John 7:15— *And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?*
- Mark 1:22— *And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.*
- Matthew 22:33, 46— *And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine... And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.*
- John 7:46— *Never man spake like this man.*

C. His ACTIVITY— What was He doing? His Father's business, and it wasn't carpentry (cf. v. 48- "*...thy father...*" v. 49- "*...my FATHER'S business*"). Jesus tells everyone who His real Father is.

**III. The MATURING of Christ** (v. 40— "*And the child grew...*" vs. 51-52).

➡ All we know about Christ's life between the ages 12 to 30 are in these two verses (cf. 3:23). If God wanted us to know more, He would have included it.

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Some cults claim Jesus went to India as a young man and was taught by Eastern gurus. There is not one shred of verifiable evidence to back up this obscure claim.

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- A. **Stature development** (v. 52—“*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature...*”).
1. Jesus had a normal childhood. He went through all the stages of growing up. He experienced the growing pains of youth so He could relate to the unique problems of young people.
  2. There was no halo around His head. There was nothing about Him that distinguished Him from other children of Nazareth, except the absence of sin (Heb. 4:15).
- B. **Scholastic learning** (v. 52—“*And Jesus increased in wisdom...*”).
1. Jesus did not come out of the womb speaking words. He learned to speak languages (Aramaic, Hebrew, Greek) and how read and write. He learned first at the feet of His mother.
    - His textbook was the O.T. Scriptures. No doubt, Scripture was written on the doorposts of their home (Dt. 11:20).
    - As Jesus grew older, Joseph instructed Him in the craft of carpentry.
  2. Scholastic development is just as important as physical development. We are to be wise stewards of our body as well and our minds.
- C. **Social favor** (v. 52—“*And Jesus increased...in favor with God and man.*”).
- ➡ The word “*favor*” refers to pleasing others—The ability to “get-along.” As a boy, Jesus showed it is possible to please both man and God without compromising.
1. There are character traits that please both God and man—Honesty, good manners, hard work, fairness, unselfishness, and respect. The reason some young people fall out of favor with society and cannot “get along” with others is they are disrespectful, self-centered, lazy, and unruly.
  2. Mark 6:3 indicates Jesus was raised in a godly home with four step-brothers and at least two step-sisters. Yet, Jesus’ behavior amongst His family members never lead Him to misbehave. He probably did His share of household chores.

3. As Jesus entered His teenage years when many children begin to rebel against their parents, Jesus remained subject to his earthly parents (v. 51). He fulfilled the fifth commandment.
  - A characteristic of the last days is children “*disobedient to parents*” (1 Tim. 3:2; Rom. 1:30). Not Jesus! Hebrews 5:8 says that Jesus learned obedience.
  - Nazareth was not an environment conducive to holy living. Unlike so many youth today, Jesus did not allow Himself to be lead astray by peer pressures.

D. **Spiritual growth** (v. 40—“*And the child...waxed strong in spirit*”).

1. Jesus was God, but He was also human. As a human, He needed to grow strong spiritually.
2. Spiritual strength comes by giving yourself to spiritual matters and nourishing the spirit with spiritual food— God’s Word... communion with God... worship.

**SUMMATION:** What can we learn from this episode in Christ’s life?

1. Never assume, or take for granted your fellowship with Christ. If you’ve become indifferent to the Bible, prayer, church, lost souls you are either unsaved or backslidden and out fellowship with Christ.
  - Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? In the Temple doing God’s business. If you have lost touch with Jesus, God’s house is the best place to get back “in touch” with Him.
  - Jesus is about His Father’s business. That is where you can enter into His fellowship— Doing God’s business at God’s House.
2. **Maturity is a process.** (1) Are you making progress in developing a healthy body to be used of God—Your body is His Temple. (2) Are you growing in your knowledge of God and His Word? (3) Are you increasing in favor with others—You cannot win someone to Christ if they don’t like you (1 Cor. 9:22). (4) Are you becoming strong in spirit, or are you spiritually weak?
3. Are you saved? Do you have Jesus “on broad” in your life?