

Young Jesus Among the Scholars Text: Luke 2:41–52

Introduction:

1. **When my sisters and I were young, the family all piled into the car after an evening worship service or Bible study and headed home...**
 - a. We were close to halfway home when My mom turned around and said, Where's Patsy
 - b. She was left behind and when we found her she was in the church building asleep!
 2. **This text is amazing for the fact that Luke is the only gospel writer to include**
 - a. the only account of Jesus' Youth from the first thirty years of His life...
 - b. And the First recorded words of Jesus, who is 12 years old at this time!
 3. **And we don't fail to notice the significance:**
 - a. Jesus is in Jerusalem for the Passover, at the Temple,
and discussing the Law of God with the Rabbi's and Scholars...
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I. YOUNG JESUS AMONG THE SCHOLARS

A. YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE OBSERVING THE PASSOVER... (v.41–42)

1. **God commanded Israel to observe the Passover every year in Jerusalem**
 - a) Joseph and Mary "went to Jerusalem every year, at the feast of the passover."
2. **The distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem was far enough that this was no easy trip, especially for a poor family.**
 - a) The number of days traveling... The distance of walking,
 - b) the cost of food and lodging... the time away from work
3. **But Joseph and Mary Honored God Side by Side > Together**
4. They Loved God because those who love God keep His Commandments
5. And His Commandments are not burdensome because God knows what is best for us
—not just for this life but for eternity!

—> THIS IS AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL MARRIED PEOPLE:

1. **Who you marry has a greater impact on your life than any other human relationship—for good and for harm...**
 - a) Our Character is often moulded by who we spend the most time with...
 - b) Our Mental Health is often moulded by who we spend the most time with...
2. **So Husbands and wives are continually doing either good or harm to one another's souls.**
 - a) Let all who are Married or Thinking of Marriage Learn from Joseph & Mary
 - b) Pray together, Worship Together, Read the Bible Together, Talk about God and Spiritual Things Together...
 - c) And Beware of Being a Stumbling Block of Discouragement for one another
3. **Be an instrument of love and grace rather than a tool of the enemy**

B. YOUNG JESUS AMONG THE SCHOLARS... (v.43–47)

- 1. Going to Jerusalem they travelled together in groups w/ other families (v.44)**
 - a) Often the women and children leading the way and setting the pace, and the men and young men following behind.
 - b) Relatives and whole villages often traveled together... keeping an eye on each other's children.
 - c) They travelled together for safety, and to help one another along the way
 - d) At the age of twelve, Jesus could easily have gone from one group to another and not been missed.
- 2. I can't imagine how frightened Mary would've been searching for Jesus:**
 - a) I've wondered if Mary ever thought to herself...
“We waited so long for the Messiah and now I've Lost Him!”
- 3. But Jesus was NOT lost — He was in the Temple among the Scholars!**
 - a) At the Time of the Passover there would've been tens of thousands of people in Jerusalem... –Probably over 100,000 people
 - b) And the greatest Rabbis of Israel would've been there at the time.
 - c) And here Jesus spends 3 days discussing spiritual & eternal things with the Rabbi's in the Temple, no doubt in a respectful and thoughtful way.
- 4. We read that Jesus listened and asked questions of the teachers... (v.46)**
 - a) A thirst for Spiritual Knowledge and Understanding at 12 years of age
- 5. We also read that all who heard the Young Jesus: were astonished at His understanding and answers (v.47)**
 - a) The Greek word here is (*existanto*) “beside themselves in amazement.”
 - b) The questions and answers of young Jesus revealed a depth of spiritual understanding that was shocking to the Rabbi's and all who were present.
- 6. How Fascinating it would've been to have seen and heard the discussions**

—> AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE:

- 1. There's a time when the heart of every child becomes spiritually awake**
 - a) A Time when they have deep questions and desire to know eternal truth
 - b) They want to grow in understanding of spiritual things—This is How God made us!
 - c) We are created in His Image to Seek Him and to Find Him
- 2. Young People—There is no greater Knowledge than the Knowledge of God**
 - a) No Other Knowledge will HUMBLE the Mind More...or EXPAND the mind more...
 - b) or OPEN, Or ENLIGHTEN the mind, or STRENGTHEN, or Give PEACE to the Mind—more than the knowledge of God
- 3. Bible Study should involve all the processes here of learning... (v.46-47)**
 - a) **LISTENING** to the Lessons prepared by Bible Teachers
 - b) **ASKING** of Questions...
 - c) **SEARCHING** for Answers from God's Word
 - d) **DISCUSSING** the concepts
 - e) **APPLICATION** to How We Should Live our life pleasing to God

C. YOUNG JESUS IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE... (v.48–52)

1. Joseph and Mary finally find Jesus in the Temple with the Scholars...
and Mary says: **“Son, why have You done this to us?
Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.”**
2. Jesus calmly replies: **“Why did you seek Me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (ESV)
Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” (NKJ)**
3. In Jewish culture of that day, a boy began to learn his father’s trade at
about 12 years of age.
 - a) Jesus wants to learn everything about His Father’s work!
 - b) Jesus Wanted to Be In His Father’s House! Attending to His Father’s Work!

—> AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL CHRISTIANS:

1. **A Great Theme of the New Testament is—to Be Like Christ...**
 - a) Becoming More and More Like Christ
 - b) Jesus wanted to be in His Father’s House... Attending to His Father’s Work...
2. **For Christians This Would Be Attending to the Work of God’s Kingdom**
 - a) Learning What God Would Have Us Do in His Kingdom...
 - b) Growing in our Knowledge and Abilities for the work of the Church
 - c) Strengthening the Weak... Reaching the Lost... Helping the Sick...
 - d) Encouraging one another in the Faith...
3. **Some Have the Ability to GIVE, others the ability to SERVE, others the ability to TEACH, others the Ability to ENCOURAGE, others to PRAY or PEACEMAKERS to resolve Conflict, or WISDOM to help solve life problems**

II. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. JESUS REALIZING HIS TRUE UNIQUE IDENTITY...

1. **We See a Glimpse of Jesus’ Realization of His True Unique Identity...**
 - a) When Mary said: **“Son, why have You done this to us?
Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” (v.48)**
 - b) Notice Jesus reply: **“Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about
My Father’s business?” “...in My Father’s house?” (ESV)**
2. **Mary spoke of Joseph, but Jesus is referring to God as His Father**
 - a) No Doubt Jesus was a prodigy at 12 yrs old because of His unique identity (2:47)
(2:47) And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.
 - b) But we also know that He grew in wisdom and understanding... (2:40, 52)
**(2:40) And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom;
and the grace of God was upon Him.
(2:52) “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”**
3. **But the Dawning Realization of Who He Was Did Not Make Jesus Arrogant**
 - a) It did not Make Jesus Look Down on His Humble Parents

- b) Jesus Went Home with His Parents and He Was Obedient to them!
- c) The fact that he was God's Son made him the perfect son of his human parents.

B. REALIZING OUR TRUE IDENTITY...

- 1. Our True Identity is Not based on Our Popularity, or Possessions, or Prominence or our Performance...**
- 2. Our Identity is Given to Us By God...**
 - a) We were Created in the Image of God...
 - b) And When We are Born Again in Baptism...
 - c) We Are Adopted into God's Family as Children of God!
 - d) With an Eternal Inheritance promised by our Father in Heaven!
- 3. This Realization Should Affect Every Aspect of Our Life!**
 - a) But it Should Never Make Us Arrogant...

It Should Make Us Humble and Obedient Like Jesus
 - b) It Shouldn't Harm Our Relationships, but Enhance Our Relationships
 - c) We Should be Better Husbands, Better Wives, Better Parents, Better Children, Better Employees, Better Brothers and Sisters, Better Christians!
- 4. To Become More Kind, More Forgiving, More Like Our Father in Heaven, More Like Christ Our Savior!**
 - a) Not to Be Seen By Men, Like the Pharisees...
 - b) Not to Gain Knowledge to Boast
 - c) Not to Argue over who is the greatest or has the best talents (**1 Cor. 13:1-3**)
 - d) We Are Called to Be More Like Christ

C. WE'RE TRAVELING TOGETHER BUT ARE WE WATCHING OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER?

- 1. Traveling to Jerusalem was not easy and sometimes not safe...**
 - a) So They Travelled to Jerusalem together for safety sake,
 - b) to help one another and to watch over one another...
 - c) Families travelled together and entire villages traveled together...
- 2. In a Similar Way, the Church is like that group traveling to Jerusalem, but we are headed to the New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City of God**
 - a) But Sometimes We Get Busy and Distracted...
 - b) And Maybe some of our traveling companions might fall behind, or get lost...
 - c) or fall through the cracks, or even turn back.
- 3. Let's Make Sure to watch out and help one another along the way (Ephesians 2:8-10)**

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Jesus was in Jerusalem, in the temple, at the Passover at 12 yrs of age**
- 2. Jesus would return again to Jerusalem, to the temple, at Passover**

As the passover lamb—to Die So We Could Live