

Luke 2:41-52 Jesus grows in wisdom and in God's favour

Introduction. This is the only account in the Gospels of Jesus' boyhood. It confirms that he was a real human child who grew in wisdom and in his trust in God and in his growing messianic consciousness. It also shows that others were beginning to recognise these qualities in Jesus. At 13 a Jewish boy was expected to enter into the full responsibilities of adulthood. Leading up to his 13th year his father was expected to prepare his son for his pending duties. At the end of his ministry Jesus was again to go to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of the Passover (celebrating Israel's deliverance from death in Egypt, Exod. 12:21ff) but this time he was to be the sacrificed 'paschal lamb' (Lk. 23:1-23; 1 Cor. 5:7).

Vs. 41-42. At the age of 12 Jesus' annual visit to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover took on a greater significance as he prepared to take on the full religious duties of an adult male on turning 13.

Vs. 43-45. His parents head home only to discover Jesus is not travelling home with relatives or friends so they return to Jerusalem.

Vs. 46-48a. They find Jesus listening to but also questioning the teachers of the law. The focus is on Jesus and his wisdom and understanding rather than on the teachers of the law. Even his parents are astonished.

Vs. 48b.-51. His parents are confused and upset having been anxiously searching for him. Jesus responds by saying, 'don't you know I had to be in **my Father's** house' showing his increasing awareness of his unique relationship with his heavenly Father and his future mission. Luke adds that Jesus returned to Nazareth with his parents and was 'obedient to them'.

Mary along with Joseph did not understand what Jesus was saying or doing but she remembered.

Vs. 52. Jesus is described as **growing in 'wisdom and in favour with God and man'**. Jesus as a real human grows in wisdom as he enters into adult life. He also grows in God's favour, in his obedience and service of God and respect of those around him.

Reflection/Response.

This short passage affirms Jesus' real humanity and also his unique relationship with his heavenly Father and his growing awareness of this.

How are we growing in our obedience and service of God?

Why is the respect of others important for our witness to Jesus?

How is both the humanity and divinity of Jesus important to our service of him and our worship of him?