



Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 3: The Tween Age Jesus—I must be about my Father's business!

Luke 2:41-52 (NKJV); The Boy Jesus Amazes the Scholars

⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³ When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; ⁴⁴ but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵ So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Jesus Advances in Wisdom and Favor

⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Series Theme: Luke presents Jesus as the Son of Man who came to seek the sons of men to save them and give them new life in Christ.

What can we learn about the Tween Age Jesus? Some lessons from the 12-year-old Jesus:

1. Jesus was brought up in the ways of _____ by His _____ (v. 41-42).

- His parents celebrated the Feast of the Passover every year.

Scripture Insight: 2:41 *went to Jerusalem.* Scripture commanded three major festivals ([Ex 23:14](#)) that required pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year ([Dt 16:16](#)); one of these was Passover ([Dt 16:6](#)). Although Jerusalem was too far for most Jews in the Diaspora to travel annually, Galilee was closer. The journey might take three days, but Josephus testifies that entire villages journeyed to Jerusalem.¹

2. Mary and Joseph experienced _____ just like any other parent (v. 43-45, 48).

- Jesus lingered and was lost by his parents.
- Can you imagine "losing" the Savior of the World?

3. Jesus understood His _____ from an early age: I must be about my Father's _____ (v. 46-47, 49-50).

- Where did Jesus' parents find Him?
- What was Jesus doing in God's house?

Scripture Insight: 2:46 *After three days.* Older estimates of Jerusalem's population (25,000 – 30,000) are too low; it may have been closer to 70,000 or 80,000. The population swelled to as high as 500,000 during festivals; although the festival was over, some pilgrims in the Diaspora may have stayed for Pentecost or to visit relatives there, so the city might have remained slightly more crowded than usual. Nazareth was at least three days' journey from Jerusalem, so the rest of the relatives would likely be home by the time Mary and Joseph located Jesus. *sitting ... asking them questions.* Disciples would sit at the feet of teachers, both listening and asking questions. Young men could enter this phase even in their early teens; nevertheless, Jesus' preoccupation with Scripture at age 12 marks him as a prodigy. Ancient biographers liked to report any incidents that marked their subjects as prodigies.²

- Notice the response of the spiritual leaders at the Temple:
 - They were astonished at 2 things about Jesus:
 - At His level of **understanding** and
 - The level of His knowledge in how Jesus could **answer** the questions that they asked.

¹ NIV Cultural Background Study Bible.

² Ibid.

Scripture Insight: 2:48 why have You done this to us? Mary's words convey a tone of exasperation and rebuke—normal for any mother under such circumstances, but misplaced in this case. He was not hiding from them or defying their authority. In fact, He had done precisely what any child should do under such circumstances (being left by His parents)—He went to a safe, public place, in the presence of trusted adults, where His parents could be expected to come looking for Him (v. 49). **Your father.** I.e., Joseph, who was legally His father.³

Tips for Spending Quality Time with the Father:

- Take time out of your day—everyday—to spend time alone with God.
- Talk to God and listen for Him to talk to you.
- Dive into His Word and feast upon His promises.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you---fresh and new for the day that lies ahead.
- Keep it fresh and creative—sometimes, you will need to mix things up to keep your time with God fresh and exciting!

4. Even though Jesus was God in the _____, He still _____ His parents (v. 51).

- Jesus understood the principle of **authority**: God has placed authority in our lives. As we trust and obey, God will pour out rich blessing upon our lives because of our faithfulness.
- The umbrella of authority: *Whenever we get **UNDER** what God has **OVER** us, God will raise us **ABOVE** what He has **UNDER** us!*

5. Jesus _____ in every possible area of life (v. 52).

Application: Some of us need to grow again in **all** areas of our life.

- When is the last time you read a book?
- When is the last time you got in better physical shape?
- When is the last time you had an encounter with God that changed your life?
- When is the last time you reached out to an old friend that you haven't seen in a while?

We are not just human beings, but we are human-becomings—becoming more and more like Christ!

Take Home Truth: I must be about my Father's business. If you are in it to win it, then you must be all in for the things of God!

Action Step: Pick a place to serve at Arden First—where can God use your talents, gifts, and abilities? Sign up on a Serve Team today using your Connection Card in front of you.

Preview for next Sunday: Bugs, Honey, & John the Baptist! Luke 3:1-19

³ John MacArthur, MacArthur Study Bible.