

Introduction

This morning I want to address two groups of people. First of all, I want to address all the parents and extended family members, or households. This includes the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and relatives. You may be a cousin, but you are part of the extended family. But, I want to also include in this group the church family. The church family is an extension of the family. The Lord has a word to say to you this morning.

Second, I want to address our youth, the young men and women in our congregation. In this account of Jesus at the age of twelve, we can glean some great insights. In Jesus' teen years, He grew in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men. What did He do? What are the things in His life that helped him? The Lord has given us some instructions from His word today that are very applicable for you.

Before we get into today's text, I want to put it into the proper context. Luke begins this gospel account by introducing himself as the author. He states the purpose of writing it. He wrote it to a man named Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and the consecutive order of all the events that happened. Luke studied, interviewed, and examined everything carefully before writing the gospel of Luke. He wants you and I to know that there is substance behind our faith. These are not mere stories, but this is a documented historical account of the events that took place.

After the introduction, Luke writes of the proclamation of the birth of John to Zacharias and Elizabeth. Then, we have the proclamation of the birth of Christ to Mary. All of this is to let us know that the Messiah is coming. God is a great communicator. He lets us know what He is doing. In His communication with them, He clearly states Jesus' identity and purpose.

(Luke 1:31-33) "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. {32} He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; {33} and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

(Luke 1:43) "And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?"

Then, Luke gives the actual accounts of John's birth and Jesus' birth. John is preparing the way for the Messiah. **His birth fulfills the prophecies from the Old Testament.** His place of birth was prophesied. His home town was prophesied. His virgin birth was prophesied. And most importantly, His identity and calling are prophesied. In the prophecies, it is also very clear that the Messiah is God Himself. In Isaiah's prophecy about the virgin birth, Jesus is called Immanuel, which means "with us is God" (Strong's 6005). In Micah's prophecy that He will be born in Bethlehem, he says that his goings are from long ago, from the days of eternity. Jesus is God and has always existed.

(Isaiah 7:14) "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

(Micah 5:2) "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

07 Jesus' Preparation For Ministry (Luke 2:41-52)

In Isaiah 9:6, he prophesies that His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. Jesus is the Mighty God. Jesus and the Father are One. The deity of Christ is clearly spelled out for us in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

(Isaiah 9:6) "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

In our study of Colossians last year we saw that by Jesus all things were created. **Jesus is the Creator and the fullness of Deity dwells in Him.** He repeats this in chapter two, saying "for in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." Paul did not want the Colossians being deceived. The identity of Christ is a crucial element to our faith. It was clearly given by the prophets and confirmed at the time of His birth.

(Col 1:16, 19) "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him... {19} For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him."

(Col 2:9) "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

The identity and calling of Jesus is the most important element of this section. The birth of the Savior, Messiah, Immanuel, Lamb of God, Son of the Most High, Lord, King, Jesus, Christ, Light of revelation to the Gentiles... God is reminding us of all the prophecies of the Messiah, and letting them know that this baby Jesus is the Christ.

(Luke 2:11) "for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2:26) "And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

(Luke 2:30-35) "For my eyes have seen Your salvation...a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel...Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

He uses a number of different prophets and angels to announce the coming of the Messiah. This includes Simeon and Anna that were mentioned last week. The main point of the passage last week is not waiting, and learning to wait. **The main point of the passage last week was confirming the identity and calling of Jesus.** The waiting was a matter of receiving what was promised. God promised Simeon that he would not die until He saw the Christ.

(Luke 2:26) "And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

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(Luke 2:38-39) "At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. {39} When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth."

It culminated in verse forty, which states that "the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." The main idea or exegetical idea for those of you who are scholars is three important keys of preparation in Jesus' youth for His earthly ministry. There are three main supporting points. The first key is understanding His identity and calling. The second key is being trained up in the Law, i.e. having righteous and obedient parents who brought Jesus up in the ways of the Lord. The third key is Jesus' acceptance and submission to the Father of who He is, the process of preparation, and the mission before Him.

Luke repeats a phrase to tie together these thoughts. At the end of His dedication last week, Luke records that the child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him. At the end of our passage today about the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Luke records that "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." It is a continuation of the same thought of Jesus' preparation for His earthly ministry.

(Luke 2:40) "The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

(Luke 2:52) "And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

There are three parts to this. God gives the identity to Jesus. He shares that identity through the angels and prophets. Second, Jesus' parents have a part to play. Third, in our text today, we find out more about Jesus' acceptance and taking ownership of His calling and ministry.

This morning, we will look at Jesus' parents and extended family. Second, we will look at what Luke says about Jesus. Let's read our text.

(Luke 2:41-52) "Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. {42} And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; {43} and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, {44} but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. {45} When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. {46} Then, 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 amazed at His understanding and His answers. {48} When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." {49} And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" {50} But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. {51} And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. {52} And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

1. Parents and Extended Family

Why do I start with parents and extended family? Our text today starts with Jesus' parents making their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. During their return they become aware that Jesus is not with them. Where do they search? They thought he was among their relatives and acquaintances. The Scriptures do not name which relatives or acquaintances; Luke simply states that Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was with the caravan of relatives and acquaintances.

(Luke 2:41-44) "Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. {42} And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; {43} and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, {44} but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances."

I want to start with **the parents and extended family because they are the primary influence in a child's life**. The parents are responsible for training up a child in the ways of the Lord. However, the Scriptures do not limit the responsibility to the mother and father. In Psalm 78, Asaph mentions that our fathers have told us the dark sayings of old. It is not singular, but plural. He continues by saying, "we will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord." In verse five, he says that the Lord "commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born." There is a generational responsibility. Fathers are not just responsible for training their children, but the children of the generation to come. That means that grandfathers and great grandfathers are included.

(Ps 78:1-7) "Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. {2} I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, {3} Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. {4} We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. {5} For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, {6} That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, {7} That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,

Asaph is referring back to Deuteronomy 6 where the Lord commanded Moses to teach God's commandments, statutes, and judgements to the people of Israel. Moses says that they are to do these commands in the land that the Lord gives them, and that their sons and grandsons might fear the Lord and keep the commandments. God's ways are to be passed down to your sons and daughters, and then to your grandsons and granddaughters. God's plan was for parents and grandparents to pass down God's commands and ways to the next generation.

(Deut 6:1-2) "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, {2} so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged."

Moses continues by saying that these words, the commandments, statutes and judgments shall be on their hearts and they are to diligently teach them to their children. They are to diligently teach God's word to their children when they sit in their house, when they walk by the way to Jerusalem to the Passover Feast or anywhere else. They are to diligently teach them when they lie down and when they rise up. They are to put God's word as a sign on their heads and write them on the doorposts of their house. In other words, when they come in and out of their house or property, they are to have reminders of God's word before them.

(Deut 6:6-9) "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. {7} "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. {8} "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. {9} "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

I grew up in the Middle East. It is very common to have three or four generations living in the same house. Children, parents, grandparents, and great grandparents frequently share the same house. We commonly hear the term household in the New Testament. The household included the children, parents, grandparents, great grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, and household servants. This was the extended family known as the household.

The household would sit and talk about God's word and commands. They would share their meals together and talk about God's word. It was common for them to sleep together in the living room, which was also the kitchen, and dining room. They would unroll their bed mats on the floor at night and sleep together. While going to bed, the household was to talk about God's word.

The parents and extended family members, the household, all had an influence on the children. The parents are the primary role model and influence, but all of them were involved in training up children in the ways of the Lord. In our account today, Jesus' parents thought he was with His relatives. It was a normal thing to spend time with your relatives. My encouragement to members of the household is to sow into the lives of those in the house. Respect and honor the desires of the parents, but sow into the children. It is Scriptural. It is not our cultural way in America, but it is Scriptural, so we should get involved in their lives.

A. Parents are to set an example.

The number one thing that parents and members of the household can do is set an example. The first thing that Moses told the congregation of Israel to do was to keep God's commandments that He was giving them. They were to do them so that their children and grandchildren would learn to fear the Lord and to keep all His statutes and commandments. Children need to see the Word of God fleshed out in our lives. They need the example.

(Deut 6:1-2) "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, {2} so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

Joseph and Mary were righteous parents. Matthew says that Joseph was a righteous man, and when he heard that Mary was pregnant, he wanted to send her a way secretly. Luke records that Mary was a virgin. She walked in purity.

(Matt 1:19) "And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly."

(Luke 1:34-35) "Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" {35} The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

Joseph and Mary were obedient to the Lord in all things. When the angel of the Lord told Joseph to take Mary as his wife, he did it. When a census was taken by Quirinius, Joseph took a very pregnant wife on a sixty-mile hike to Bethlehem. If there was ever a time to make an exception to the rule, this was it. But Joseph and Mary were obedient to the governmental authorities over them.

(Luke 2:4-5) "Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, {5} in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child."

Joseph and Mary were completely obedient. When Jesus was eight days old, they named Him Jesus, just as the angel had instructed them. Then, they circumcised Him. They were being obedient to God's instructions to them and the law.

(Luke 2:21) "And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb."

(Lev 12:2-3) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean. {3} On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.'"

After the eighth day, according to the Law, a woman remained unclean in her blood for thirty-three more days if she has had a male child. For a female child, a woman was unclean for two weeks, and then she remained in the blood of her purification for another sixty-six days.

(Lev 12:4-5) "Then she shall remain in the blood of her purification for thirty-three days; she shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are completed. {5} But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean for two weeks, as in her menstruation; and she shall remain in the blood of her purification for sixty-six days."

Luke says that when the days of purification were over, the forty-one days required for the birth of a male child, they presented Jesus and gave the required offering. Again, they were fully obedient to the Law. Apparently, they stayed in Bethlehem for six weeks and then went UP to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is about six miles north of Bethlehem. It is also set on a hill. We have many psalms of ascent, which were sung as people made their way up to Jerusalem for the various feasts.

07 Jesus' Preparation For Ministry (Luke 2:41-52)

(Luke 2:22-23) “And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord {23} (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")”

When Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in Jerusalem, they gave an offering of two turtle doves. There are some that preach that Jesus was financially wealthy. According to Leviticus, an offering of two turtle doves was required for those who could not afford the offering of a lamb. Mary and Joseph were poor, and could not afford the lamb, so they brought two turtledoves.

(Lev 12:6-8) “When the days of her purification are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering.... {8} But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.”

At the end of the text last week, Luke says that when Joseph and Mary had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee. The Child, Jesus, continued to grow and become strong. **The implication is that part of Jesus' growth came as a result of their complete obedience to the Lord.**

(Luke 2:39-40) “When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. {40} The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

Afterwards, they returned to Nazareth. In verse forty, Luke tells us that “the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” As we begin our text today, Jesus is now twelve years old and they are going to Jerusalem to the Feast of the Passover. There is a twelve-year jump between these verses. The only thing that we know about these twelve years is that the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Matthew tells us that sometime before Jesus was two years old, there were some magi that visited. They went to Jerusalem looking for Jesus. Herod, the King, heard they had come and brought them before him to ask questions about the location of the child. Then, they went on their way and found Jesus. Matthew says after coming into the house... I believe that they were now home in Nazareth.

(Matt 2:11) “After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Shortly afterwards, an angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee to Egypt. **Joseph and Mary are instantly obedient.** He got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. They were not just obedient, they were quick to obey. Sometimes I have mulled over what I think I have heard, or I want to study it some more. This was instant obedience.

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(Matt 2:13-14) "Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." {14} So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt."

This is the obedience that they teach young marines. When an officer gives a command, they are not allowed to ask for more information; they must instantly follow the command. They have opportunity to ask questions later, but instant obedience is required. When God speaks to you and I, we must be instantly obedient. When God tells us to pray about something, we must pray. If He tells us to fast, we must fast. If He tells us to go serve someone, we must go serve. If He tells us to give money to someone in need, we need to give it. We must learn to obey immediately.

After Herod had died, the angel of the Lord told Joseph to bring his family back to Israel. When they returned, they moved back to Nazareth. Again, Joseph and Mary are obedient to the Lord. They are setting a wonderful example of obedience to the Lord. Every event mentioned in the gospels point to their complete and instant obedience. They set a wonderful example for Jesus.

(Matt 2:19-23) "But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, {20} "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." {21} So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, {23} and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

We do not have any details about how old they are when they return to Nazareth. The next glimpse of Jesus' life comes at their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Not all parents went to the Feast of the Passover in Jerusalem. For them it was a three-day hike there and a three-day hike back to their home. They were to be there for seven days, so this would require two weeks of their time. It took planning, commitment, and a conscientious effort to make this trip. Again, Mary and Joseph are obedient to the Lord.

(Luke 2:41-43) "Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. {42} And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; {43} and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,"

Notice that Luke said that they were returning after spending the full number of days. Scholars tell us that many Jews would go for the first day or the first two days of the Passover and then go home. They would not stay the required number of days. Joseph and Mary were completely obedient to the Lord and to His Law. (See Ex 12:1-32, 23:14-15, Deut 16:1-8.)

(Ex 23:14-15) "Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me. {15} "You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed."

It is vitally important for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and members of the household to set an example for the children. It is also important for the older children to set an example for the younger children. It is important for the church family to set an example for the children. We cannot underestimate the importance of setting an example for our children. If we want them to grow strong, increase in wisdom, and to have the grace of God on them, we must be examples to them.

These are the questions we must ask ourselves:

- “Am I being obedient to God’s word in every area of my life?”
- “Am I completely and instantly obedient to God’s word?”
- “Am I setting an example to my children and grandchildren?”
- “Am I setting an example for my church family to follow?”

B. Parents are to teach children the Word of God (Deut 6:1-9)

The second thing that Moses commanded fathers to do was to teach their children the Law.

(Deut 6:7-9) “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. {8} “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. {9} “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

We do not find anything specific that tells us that Joseph and Mary taught the Commands to Jesus. Where we left off last week was the presentation of Jesus after the days of purification for Mary were completed. It ends by saying Joseph and Mary had done everything according to the Law and that Jesus continued to grow. **The growth Jesus experienced as a child hinged upon His parents.** Experts today tell us that most of the child’s character development occurs before the age of seven. This tells me that Joseph and Mary taught Jesus the Word of God in His early years.

(Luke 2:39-40) “When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. {40} The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

In Proverbs 4, Solomon writes about how David began teaching him when he was tender and the only son in the sight of his mother. David began teaching Solomon the Word at an early age. He taught Him to acquire wisdom and understanding. He taught him to hold fast to God’s word.

(Pro 4:3-5) “When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, {4} Then he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; {5} Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.”

In our account today, Luke says that all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. Jesus knew the word, and was well versed in the Word of God. This suggests that Joseph and Mary were also obedient in instructing their children in the commandments and ways of the Lord.

07 Jesus' Preparation For Ministry (Luke 2:41-52)

(Luke 2:46-47) "Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions."

Many years ago when we were living in Florida, we took a family camping vacation to the Smoky Mountains. We enjoyed camping. We had a Coleman Sequoia that slept seven people. That meant that we also had another tent that we pitched next to our trailer for the remainder of our family to sleep in. Normally, Karen and I ended up in the tent. On this particular camping trip, we went to Cherokee, North Carolina. There was a robin's nest in the tree next to our site. I had the pleasure of watching the mother and father robin feed their babies from sun-up to sun-down.

While watching one day, the Lord spoke a word to me. He said that if I would be diligent to feed my children the Word of God, just as this mother and father robin had been doing, that He would develop my teaching gift. He also said to me that I would train up my children in the ways of the Lord, it would go well for me. I began to have daily devotionals with my children. I had to begin preparing small portions of Scripture to teach each day. I also led our family in devotionals. We saw excellent fruit from our obedience in teaching our children the Word of God. The following video clip is an excerpt from a special that CNN did on our family in 1994.

I believe that Joseph and Mary took time to teach Jesus and His siblings the Word of God. I also believe that they passed on all the prophetic words that had been given to them about Jesus. They helped Him understand who He was.

I mentioned that the main thrust of this section of Luke is the preparation of Jesus. He knew who He was and what He was called to do. The angels and prophets had clearly given that to His parents. It is extremely important for parents to help their children know their identity and their calling in life. Most youth today are searching for their identity and purpose in life. As parents we need to help them in this area. Second, it is important for parents to train up their children in the ways of the Lord. Parents are to be examples to them, and they are to diligently teach their children.

2. Message to Youth

The third point of this section is about Jesus showing ownership and responsibility of His identity and calling. It also shows that Jesus had committed Himself to the Word of God. Finally, it shows that Jesus was submitted to God and to his parents. I believe there are some things that particularly important for our youth to grasp from this account.

A. Jesus knew His identity.

In our account today, Joseph and Mary traveled about twenty miles away from Jerusalem and then discovered that Jesus was not with them. After not finding Him with their relatives, they travel another twenty miles back to Jerusalem. On the third day they go looking for Him, and finally find Him in the temple. They ask Him why He has treated them this way.

(Luke 2:48) "When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You."

Jesus' reply show that He fully understood who He was and what His calling was. He asks them two questions: "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" He knew that He was the Son of God and He knew the Father. He had relationship with the Father.

(Luke 2:49) "And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

B. Jesus knew His calling and mission. (Father's business) (See Luke 2:48-50.)

The King James phrases it a little differently. It says, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? There is not a Greek word used here to be translated as business. It literally reads, "Did you not know it is necessary to be about My Father?" The house or business are implied interpretations of what Jesus is conveying. Jesus was about the Father. Jesus was about the Father's house. Jesus was about the Father's business. Jesus knew His mission and what the Father had called Him to do.

(Luke 2:49 KJV) "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Jesus had a zeal for the Father's house at an early age. In John 2 Jesus went up to the Passover and saw what was going on in the temple. He made a scourge of cords, and drove them out of the temple. He tells them that His Father's house is a house of prayer, not a place of doing business. John records that the disciples remembered that it was written, "zeal for Your house will consume Me." This zeal did not start after Jesus entered into ministry. Jesus had zeal for His Father's house at the age of twelve. He was about the Father's business.

(John 2:13-17) "The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {14} And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. {15} And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; {16} and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." {17} His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

We want to have a youth group at EMV. Donald Hay has spoken to me about it. We do not want just a place of fun and games. We want a youth group that is about the Father's business. We want a youth group that is passionate and zealous for God. We want a youth group that is about the Father.

Our youth must know the Father. They must know who they are in Christ. They must know their identity. They must know their calling. We have to help them know their gifts and callings. We must help them grow and mature in these things so that they can be about our Father's business.

C. Jesus knew the Word.

Jesus knew who He was and He knew His calling. He knew He was to be about the Father's business. He had a zeal for the Lord. Luke also reveals something else about Jesus. He says while

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Jesus is in the temple He is both listening and asking them questions. Then, it says that all who heard Jesus were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

(Luke 2:46-47) “Then, 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 amazed at His understanding and His answers.”

When we think of someone asking questions, we think of the other person giving answers. Jesus had tremendous understanding of the Scriptures. Where did He get this understanding? **Jesus meditated on the Word of God.** Jesus confounded the teachers because He knew God's word. In Psalm 119:97-100, the Lord teaches us about meditating on the law. It says that when you and I meditate on God's word, it makes us wiser than our enemies. It also gives us more insight than all of our teachers. It gives us more understanding than the aged. Jesus had more understanding and insights than the teachers because He meditated on the Word of God.

(Ps 119:97-100) “O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. {98} Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. {99} I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. {100} I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.”

There are other benefits to meditating on God's word. Psalm 119 tells us that a young man can keep his way pure by keeping it according to God's word. How do we keep our ways according to God's word? We must treasure it in our hearts. That will keep us from sinning against God. Jesus lived a pure and holy life. The Scriptures record that He was without sin.

(Ps 119:9-11) “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word....{11} Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

In Joshua 1:8, we find the same principle. After Moses died, God charged Joshua to be strong and courageous. Then, He tells him, “this book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” When we meditate on the word day and night, we can then be careful to do according to all that is written in it. Jesus meditated on the word of God day and night, and was careful to do according to all that was written in it. He lived a sinless life and He became wiser than the teachers in the temple.

(Josh 1:8) “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

Youth, hide God's word on your hearts. Memorize Scripture. The Navigator's Topical Memory System is a wonderful scripture memory program. Begin to memorize scripture and meditate on the scriptures that you are memorizing. It will give you insights and understanding beyond your years. It will keep you out of sin. It will prepare you for kingdom ministry. Let me strongly encourage you to memorize and meditate on God's word.

D. Jesus was submitted to the Father.

Jesus returned with His parents to Nazareth. The Scriptures say that He continued in subjection to them. The Greek word is *hupotasso*, which means under proper order and arrangement. All of us are to be under proper order and arrangement. Children are to submit to their parents. Wives are to submit to their husbands. All of us are to submit to one another. All of us are to submit to governmental authorities. God has called Christians to a life of submission.

(Luke 2:51) "And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart."

All of us are to submit to the pastors or elders in the church. It is part of God's order. One of the ways that we do that is by joining a church. We place ourselves under the government or rule of a local church. We get properly attached to a local body through church membership. We live in a time when people have a difficult time with submission. If you even mention the word submission, some people think you are being overbearing. But, the Scriptures tell us very clearly that we are to submit to our authorities. Jesus submitted to His parents and continued in submission to them.

In your outline, I say that Jesus was submitted to God. The passage says that Jesus was in subjection to His parents. Our authorities are established by God. When we are submitted to God, we must also be submitted to the authorities established by God. Romans 13 tells us that these authorities are established for our good. We cannot say that we are submitted to God when we are in rebellion against the authorities He establishes in our lives.

A number of years ago, we were showing some Focus on the Family video teachings at a church that I was on staff at. In one of the videos, James Dobson said that it is perfectly normal for teenagers to rebel. He said it was part of the leaving process. As a leadership team, we corrected that teaching after the video. It is not God's will for children and youth to rebel against their parents. It is God's will for our young men and women to continue in subjection to their parents.

The Scriptures teach us that when a man marries, he leaves his parents and cleaves to his wife, and the two become one flesh. Up until that time, young people are to remain in submission to their parents. They are to receive counsel and instruction. Part of the protection that God has for us is to stay under proper authority. Young people, let me strongly encourage you to remain in subjection to your parents. Glean all that you can from them. Work hard on your relationship with your parents. God will bless you when you honor your mother and father.

(Gen 2:24) "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

Conclusion

Luke ends this passage by saying that "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." God gave revelation through angels and prophets about the identity of Christ. It is important for adults and youth alike to know who they are in Christ. It starts with a relationship with the Father. We come into that relationship by receiving Christ into our lives. He is the Savior that came to wash us and cleanse us from all our sins. He took the payment for our sins on the cross. Our

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identity begins with our relationship with the Father. As we read and study His word, we find that He calls us saints, not sinners. He calls us His sons and daughters. He has bought us. He has redeemed us. He has adopted us. He has made us a royal priesthood and a holy nation. We need to know Christ, and who we are in Christ. Jesus knew His Father.

(Luke 2:52) "And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

We must also know our calling and mission. We need to know how God has gifted us so that we can serve Him. God does not want us ignorant about spiritual gifts, but to be knowledgeable about the gifts. He wants us to serve Him in with our gifts and abilities. In our membership interview, we ask about your gifts, abilities, and desires. We want to help you find your place of service in the body. It is important for every believer to be properly connected and serving in the local church. Jesus knew He was to be about His Father's business. He knew what He had come to do and the job that was in front of Him.

Finally, Jesus took responsibility in His life. His parents had done their part. At some point He took responsibility. He read, studied, memorized, and meditated on the Scriptures. He submitted Himself to His parents and the authorities God put in His life. As He did these things, He continued to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 1:31-43, Luke 2:11-52)

- Jesus' birth fulfills the _____ from the Old Testament. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, Micah 5:2)
- Jesus is the _____ and the fullness of Deity dwells in Him. (Col 1:16, 19, 2:9)
- The main point of the passage last week was confirming the _____ and calling of Jesus. (Luke 2:21-40)

1. Message to Parents and Extended Family (Luke 2:41-44)

- The parents and extended family are the _____ influence in a child's life. (Ps 78:1-7, Deut 6:1-9)
- A. Parents are to set an _____. (Deut 6:1-2)
- Joseph and Mary were _____ parents. (Matt 1:19, Luke 1:34-35)
- Joseph and Mary were _____ to the Lord in all things. (Luke 2:4-5)
- Joseph and Mary were _____ obedient. (Luke 2:21-23, Lev 12:2-8)
- The implication is that Jesus' growth came as a result of their complete _____ to the Lord. (Luke 2:39-40)
- Joseph and Mary are _____ obedient. (Matt 2:11-14, 19-23, Luke 2:41-43, Ex 23:14-15)
- B. Parents are to _____ children the Word of God (Deut 6:1-9)
- The growth Jesus experienced as a child hinged upon His _____. (Luke 2:39-40, Pr 4:3-5, Luke 2:46-47)

2. Message to Youth

- A. Jesus knew His _____. (Luke 2:48-49)
- B. Jesus knew His _____ and mission. (Luke 2:48-50)
- Jesus had a _____ for the Father's house at an early age. (John 2:13-17)
- C. Jesus knew the _____. (Luke 2:46-47)
- Jesus _____ on the Word of God. (Ps 119:97-100, Josh 1:8, Ps 119:9-11)
- D. Jesus was _____ to the Father. (Luke 2:51, Gen 2:24)

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