

Luke 2:41~52

Tonight we find ourselves, looking at a very unusual event that took place in the life of Jesus Christ that has to do with his childhood years. This is the only thing that I am aware of in all of the N.T. that tells us anything about his “*childhood*.” of our Lord. Everything else that is written, deals with his infancy. Here in Luke’s account, the account just before this concerning the incident with Simeon and Anna in the temple, took place when he was 41 days old. Here, we are told explicitly that he is 12 years old. And the next time we see him, he’s around 30 years old, being baptized by John. So if nothing else, this makes this a very unique passage, in that it is the only record of his *childhood years*... And even then, it doesn’t reveal a whole lot.

There’s no doubt in my mind, that the fact Luke mentions that He is at the age of 12, is significant. Luke beings in generality by saying that every year, they came to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. But points out, that when he was 12 years old, a strange event took place. Now it’s possible, that Luke does this to merely establish a timeline, but I don’t think so. I think he mentions the fact that he is 12, because of the significance it has with what happened.

The thing that kept coming over and over to my mind, was “*Bar mitzvah*.” Bar mitzvah was a Jewish celebration, of the “*coming of age*” of young boys. It was a celebration at the 13th birthday of every Jewish boy, commemorating his becoming a “*son of the commandment*.” It refers to the age at which he would become “*accountable*” to the commandments of the Lord. (What we often refer to as the *Age of accountability*).

What I see taking place here is, Jesus preparing himself to take on the coming responsibilities... Jesus is preparing himself to take the next phase in Jewish life...*manhood*. Something that struck me while studying this was how they measured a man. Ours is often stature and toughness, but the Jewish form is the point when a boy assumes the responsibility of complete obedience to the Lords commands.

The point here seems to be with his preparation to take on the next phase of a Jewish boy’s life, manhood. Every Jewish boy, upon turning 13 years old, would become “*a son of the commandment*.” I’m convinced that what we see here is the fulfillment of Bar Mitzvah. I believe every time they celebrated Bar Mitzvah, like every other feast and festival of the Jews, I believe they were pointing to the one who would truly become the “*Son of the commandment*.”

At the heart of this passage, is the “*astonishment of Jesus*” in contrast to Mary & Joseph’s dismay Luke records when they finally found him, they were amazed at where he was and what he was doing. Understandably, as would any parent, they lit in on him...

- How could you do this to us?
- Your father and I have been worried sick over you...
- We’ve been looking everywhere for you...

Notice the response of Jesus...very interesting.

- He’s calm...
- Almost surprised at how they were acting...
- It’s as though in his mind, he’s not lost, he’s right where he should be...

⁴⁹And he said unto them, *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?*

It's like... Why would you *look all over* for me?

Did you not know that I would be here?

Most translations translate “*My Fathers business*” as “*My Father’s house.*”

Which really seems to be the best way to translate it...

Why were you “**looking** for me,” didn’t you know I would be here in “*My Fathers house?*”

It’s kind of like...

If you wanted to find a small child, would you not start by looking in his father’s house?

“*Isn’t it only natural that the Son be found in His Fathers house?*”

Luke’s purpose in mentioning this seems to be that this is the first mention of Jesus’ awareness that he was God’s Son and that he had special work to do!

- (He called God “*my Father*”)...(he said I “*must*” be here)

⁴⁹Jesus said, *How is it that ye sought me? Know ye not that **I must be about my Father’s business?***

The thing that really stands out in Jesus’ statement is the “*emphasis*” on “**my Father...**”

^{48b} Mary said...*thy father and I* have sought thee sorrowing.

⁴⁹Jesus said, *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about **my Father’s business?***

Luke may have record this event simply for the fact, it may have well been the first time that Jesus affirms that **Joseph is not his father...**but God is his father!

- Being 12 years old, I see Jesus becoming “*a son of the commandment,*” in its most full sense.

- This may well mark the beginning of “*His doing His Fathers Will!*”

- Over the next 18 years, Jesus would increase in wisdom and stature...in favor with God/Man...

(Vs 50) Luke records Mary and Joseph’s response to Jesus’ claim...

⁵⁰And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

They didn’t get it... It never sunk in what he was talking about...

(Vs 51~52) ⁵¹And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.