

Thursday School

October 8, 2020

Growing Up—Years of Obscurity The Childhood & The Youth of Christ

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God was upon him." Luke 2:40

*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."
Luke 2:52*



I. The Childhood of Christ

A. His Nazareth Home

1. Nazareth→was a small, despised village.
2. His family→was comprised at least 9 members.
3. The influence of his mother

B. His Natural Development *"Made like unto his brethren"*

1. Our Lord subjected Himself to the common laws of human infancy and childhood.
2. He had to go through the same developmental stages in every realm→ physically, intellectually, socially, psychologically that we all have had to go through.

C. His Education

1. The Gospels shed no light on his education, possible to gain some knowledge from the customs of the day.
2. "The House of the Book"
 - a. A village school for boys beginning at age of 6 till 10 years of age.
 - b. Taught by the rulers of the synagogue.
3. At the age of 12→ became a "Son of the Law"

"The favor of God was upon Him"

You see in Jesus as a man a dependence upon the grace of God. His childhood was consistent with both His humanity and His deity.

II. The Youth of Christ Luke 2:42-51

A. His Jerusalem Journey

1. At the age of 12, a Jewish boy crossed the boundary between a young Jewish male, now an adult male.
2. Becoming then a "the son of the Law," which now is celebrated as a Bar Mitzvah

B. His Distressing Discovery

1. The feast has ended → the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem
2. His heart is before us → we see Jesus having a humble spirit, a teachable spirit.
3. Notice that He was sitting among the teachers, listening, asking questions, and engaging them.

C. His Cryptic Answer

1. His parents find Him in the temple, they were astonished!
2. He replies in v.49, "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house/or/Father's business."
 - a. He is clearly aware that He is the Son of God.
 - b. When that awareness came to Him as a human, we do not know, but we do know it was there by the age of 12.
3. We see in His reply that Jesus has a sense of responsibility and obligation to His Father, at the age of twelve.
 - a. "I must. I am called to this. I am set apart for this. This is an obligation. The priority of My life is to serve My heavenly Father, to be about His business."
 - b. He realized by this point that His true home was not where He had grown up physically in Nazareth, but in the temple where His heavenly Father lived.

Conclusion:

He showed proper respect and obedience both to His heavenly Father and earthly parents.

V. 52 says, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

V. 40 tells us "the child grew" → during those first 12 years He grew. The next 18 years → from 12 to 30 → Jesus increased → He advanced. The word "increasing" means to be intentional about your growth. The first 12 years the Child grew. But in the next 18 years, He advanced, He increased.

"Those next 18 years of hidden discipline and training, during which He was 'tempted in all points', yet without sin."

At home He learned the habit of self-surrender and implicit obedience that characterized His attitude to His heavenly Father and culminated in death on the cross.

"Where Scripture is silent, it is part of wisdom to refrain from speculation.

There are certain things that we do know:

He was as divine when a dependent babe as when He ascended His heavenly throne.

We know that at the age of 12 He was conscious of being in a unique sense the Son of God.

So we can say that early He knew that God was His Father and that He was His servant and Son."