

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Four

THE YOUTH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Luke 2:40-52

Burden to Impart:

This account in Luke is the unique account in the Bible about Jesus' life from His early childhood until His full manhood. Therefore the points revealed here about the Lord's growth and youth must be the single impression the Spirit wants to reveal to us. In verse 40 we see that the little child Jesus grew in an absolutely complete and balanced way. He "grew" physically, "became strong" spiritually (see Luke 1:80), and was "filled with wisdom" psychologically. Besides this, He enjoyed God sweetly within, for God's grace was upon Him.

Luke 2:52 says that Jesus "kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men." One secret, or key, to the Lord's continual growth and development is in verse 51: the Lord was subject to His human parents. This basic lesson was what the Lord practiced in His human life for the next eighteen years, until He began His ministry. "Though He was a Son, He learned obedience (in His human life) through the things He suffered" (Heb. 5:8).

Memory Verse: "And Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them And Jesus kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:51-52).

Facts to Teach:

1. As a child, the Lord Jesus grew and developed physically, mentally, and spiritually.
2. Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem year by year to keep the Passover feast as God had commanded His people in His law.
3. When Jesus was twelve years old He went up with His parents to Jerusalem to keep the Passover feast also. After the feast was over, when Jesus' parents returned to Nazareth, they did not notice that He was not with them. Probably hundreds of people were in the "caravan" to walk the long journey (about one hundred miles) each time they went up to Jerusalem for a festival feast.
4. After three days of searching, the Lord Jesus was found by His parents in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, hearing them and questioning them. They were all amazed at his understanding and answers.
5. When Mary asked Him why He had treated them like this, He answered "I must be in the things of My Father" (Luke 2:49), showing His care for God His Father's interests. In His humanity (as a man), He was the son of His parents, and in His deity (as God), He was the Son of God.
6. However, as a young boy He obeyed His earthly parents, going down to Nazareth with them and being subject to them. As He grew, He kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52).
7. This incident shows us that Jesus took His earthly circumstances and human relationships as part of His Father's will. He handled all of these things in a proper manner so that He could do His Father's will and work in the proper way.

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Songs for Lesson Four

HIS YOUTH

Luke 2:52; tune: "Kookaburra."

C F C
Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature;
F C
Jesus grew in favor with God and men.
F C F
I'm growing up and you're growing up
C F C
And Jesus grew up, too.

*May be sung in a round: second part starts
when first part reaches second line.*

Luke 2:40-52; tune: *Hymns*, #1069.

D G
In Jerusalem Jesus taught the men
E A7
In the temple when He was only twelve,
D G D A
And when His family left for home,
Bm A7 D
He stayed behind for three whole days.

His family turned around-
They were worried about Him.
His family turned around-
They were worried about Him.

Then they went to Jerusalem
And found Him in the temple still.

Jesus went with them, and was subject to
Their authority, as a young man should.
His mother kept this in her heart,
And Jesus as a young man grew.

In wisdom He advanced,
And in stature He advanced,
In wisdom He advanced,
And in stature He advanced,

And Jesus kept advancing, too,
In favor with God and men.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for lesson 4)

THE LORD JESUS IN HIS YOUTH

Memory verses: And Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them... And Jesus kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.
Luke 2: 51-52

When a boy in Israel became twelve years of age he was called a "son of the law" and experienced his first legal obligation. It was then that the boy, Jesus, accompanied Joseph and Mary, going to the feast at the temple in Jerusalem. This was in accordance with the custom ordained in Deuteronomy 16:16 which was to be observed by every male in Israel. So important was this feast that if anyone should neglect it, he would be "cut off." This was the feast of the Passover. (This feast was a reminder of the slavery of the Jews were under long ago when they were in Egypt and their wonderful deliverance by God which finally brought them into the Promised Land, and even now to the temple, their holy place of worship.)

Here the young boy, Jesus, shared in partaking of the symbolic emblems, the Passover Lamb and the unleavened bread. In every detail He identified Himself with God's people by keeping the law.

In the gospel of Luke we read that he tarried behind in Jerusalem while Joseph and Mary went a day's journey ahead. When they could not find Him among their friends and relatives in the caravan, they turned back again to Jerusalem and began to look for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and scribes, both hearing them and asking them questions. His hearers were astonished at His understanding and answers.

When Joseph and Mary saw Him they were amazed. His mother said, "Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you, sorrowing." He answered, "Why is it that you were seeking Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" In this answer He showed them clearly that He was God's Son, and that He put His Father first in all things. However, in order to please God and keep His commandments, Jesus needed to honor His earthly father and mother and subject Himself to them. Jerusalem was a big city, the capital of the country. Nazareth was only a small, distant town. In Jerusalem was the temple with so many things happening; in Nazareth was a small unexciting carpenter's shop to work at each day. Although most young people would rather stay in Jerusalem, Jesus was happy to please His heavenly Father by subjecting Himself to His earthly parents.

What a comfort it must have been to Mary and Joseph as He returned with them such subjection and obedience, which was also to last in the home, not for the usual length of time, but until He was thirty years of age. What a perfect Son of God and Son of Man? This perfect testimony was lived before God, His heavenly Father, and before His earthly family too.