

January 24, 2003

Luke 2:41-52

41. “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 supposing 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.”

Not much is recorded in the Scriptures about the childhood of Jesus, but this one instance. Why God included this one part of Jesus' life as a boy, we can't be sure. But several important lessons can be gleaned from this passage.

From verses 41 and 42 we can see that Joseph and Mary, Jesus' parents, were devout in their religious devotion. The feast of the Passover was eight days at Jeruasalem, and at least one day travel for going and then again returning home. Parents' devotion is important for children as they teach by example.

From verse 44 we can see that the whole family went. Jesus was not missed for a whole day on the way home amidst a large caravan of relatives and acquaintances. Religion was a family affair--an so it should be today.