

I. Introduction

A. Review

II. Jesus' Youth

- B. There are only 2 statements that give some indication as to how His youth went.
1. This must be sufficient for our edification.
 2. It does make the pattern for later understanding concrete.
 - a) What we see here will give a picture to us of what we will study later.
 - b) For now, just know that Jesus' youth was, in every way, under the same struggles, strains, and growth as any other youth of any other time.
 - (1) Even in His youth, He was faced with temptation-Hebrews 2:18; 5:14-16.
 - (2) However, because He did not have sin inside of His heart or body, although tempted, He was faithful to God to refuse the temptations that assault everyone of any age.

C. Statement #1 =

Luke 2:39–40

39 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.

D. Statement #2 =

Luke 2:51–52

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.

E. Sandwiched between these two statements is sufficient information to instruct young people of their responsibilities.

1. Let's review this:

Luke 2:39–52

39 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.

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;

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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.

(1) The scene is Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and the other children of Joseph and Mary went down with the large caravan of pilgrims to Jerusalem in order to celebrate the Passover.

(a) The Passover feast began with time of purification, preparations, the feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover, and the feast of Pentecost, some 50 days later.

(b) This was the main feast for all the Jews around the world and the city would have been packed.

(i) You can see this in Acts 2

(ii) You can also see this in portions of the gospels.

(2) After a time, they head home.

(a) However, after traveling for a day, a long slow journey for so many hundreds from that area, they realized that Jesus was not with them.

(b) They saw that beforehand.

(c) They just assumed He was with others in the group and they were not worried.

(i) This means that He was known for getting along with others.

(ii) This means that others would have taken Him in without a problem.

(3) Jesus is twelve, a time in Jewish history of being responsible enough to take on obedience to the Law of Moses.

“In strict law, personal observance of the ordinances, and hence attendance on the feasts at Jerusalem, devolved on a youth only when he was of age, that is, at thirteen years. Then he became what was called ‘a son of the Commandment,’ or ‘of the Torah.’ But, as a matter of fact, the legal age was in this respect anticipated by two years, or at least by one.^d It was in accordance with this custom that, [V 1, p 236](#) on the first Pascha after Jesus had passed His twelfth year, His Parents took Him with them in the ‘company’ of the Nazarenes to Jerusalem.”¹

¹ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, vol. 1 (New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1896), 235–236.

(1) Interestingly, accordingly, this was Jesus' first visit to the Passover Feast.

(i) This is because often the women would stay home and the men would attend:

Deuteronomy 16:16

16 "Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

(b) Therefore, it was at this time, according to Jewish/Rabbinic custom, that a boy became "man" enough to begin keeping the Torah of Moses.

(c) Thus, in keeping with tradition, Jesus would accompany His father, and, in this case, His mother, to Jerusalem in order offer sacrifice and otherwise worship.

(d)

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.

b) Jesus is looked for by Joseph and Mary for three days.

(1) This may indicate that Joseph would have been heading back to Nazareth as it was allowable to leave for home after 3 days.

Only on the two first days of the Feast of Passover was personal attendance in the Temple necessary. With the third day commenced the so-called half-holydays, when it was lawful to return to one's home—a provision of which, no doubt, many availed themselves.²

(2) And when they found Him, He was in the Temple.

(a) He, as in a student posture, sitting, was discussing the Law with them, the teachers of the Law.

(b) When He entertained questions, answers, and other discussions, people recognized His great insight into Scripture.

(c) He had great understanding, for a boy of 12 years.

(i) This indicates that Joseph and Mary did their job well.

(ii) It also indicates the priority of Jesus to believe the Scripture and to strive to understand it.

² Ibid. P. 246

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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.

(3) Jesus now speaks for the first time in Scripture-"Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

(a) He clearly understood that God was His Father.

(b) Further, He was acting as any 12 year old SHOULD act in light of Torah and the covenants!!

(c) However, He was only 12!

(i) He must be seen as being twelve years old, and not 33 in a twelve year old body.

(ii) With this in mind, realize that He had great insight and understanding in the Scripture, even to discussing intelligently with religious leaders.

Psalm 119:100

100 I understand more than the aged,
Because I have observed Your precepts.

Job 32:7-9

7 "I thought age should speak,
And increased years should teach wisdom.
8 "But it is a spirit in man,
And the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.
9 "The abundant *in years* may not be wise,
Nor may elders understand justice.

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.

(d) V. 51-Now, we come to the most defining passage concerning Jesus Christ from the time He was twelve to the time He was about 30 and begins His ministry.

(i) At this time, Jesus finishes up with the religious leaders and, at the command of His parents, returns home with them.

(ii) His life, now, is filled with only one type of behavior, even up to the point of being 30 years of age-submission.

- (iii) When it says that He "continued in subjection," Luke is describing Jesus' behavior, life.
- (a) Luke uses a "complimentary participle" here along with the imperfect verb "He continued/was."
 - (b) Using a construction like this makes is clear that from this point forward, Jesus was always in subjection/obedience to Joseph and Mary.
 - (c) We also know this is the case because Jesus was known by others as the carpenter (Mark 6:3).
 - (d) Therefore, Jesus learned the trade of His earthly father, Joseph, and became a carpenter.
 - (e)