

Parenting
Luke 2:40 – 52

And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem, and His parents did not know it. But supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that

after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Lessons about Parenting

1. Parenting is a huge responsibility.
2. Parents do not need to be rich or even middle class.
3. Parents do not need to be perfect to be successful.
4. Be prepared for that transition to abstract thinking.

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References:

- He was tempted in all points just as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15
- God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. Ecclesiastes 7:29
- Joseph and Mary were called righteous by God. Matthew 1:18 – 25, Luke 1:28 – 30
- Promised David that the Messiah would come through him. 2 Samuel 7:13 – 16 and a half dozen other places
- The Messiah would appear suddenly in the Temple. Malachi 3:1

Lessons about Parenting

References:

- The faithful will suffer as a result of their faith. Philippians 1:29, 2 Timothy 3:12
- The faithful are instructed to look to the positive outcomes of perseverance and overcoming rather than at the immediate discomfort. e.g. Romans 5:3 – 4, Hebrews 12:11, James 1:3.
- But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things [such as food and clothing] will be added to you. Matthew 6:33
- Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters. Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3