

MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

Luke 2:39-52

(v.39-42) The child Christ grew and *became* strong. This is intriguing in that Jesus “became” strong. Scripture declares: **(Hebrews 5:8-10)** “...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...” The *grace*, “*divine influence*” of God was upon Him. Jesus was not beamed down to earth, “bypassing” human suffering; He willingly subjected Himself to the rigors of this life that He might be “perfected” as an offering for our sins. *Thus, none of satan’s accusations can stick!* Unlike the first Adam Jesus did not fail; securing *forever* our peace with God! **(1 Corinthians 15:45)** And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”

(v.41, 42) This was the annual “family vacation.” **Passover**, was a celebration commemorating Israel’s deliverance from Egypt **(Exodus 12)**; it begins on the **10th of Abib or Nissan**, (March-April). Jesus was *twelve* years old at this time; just one year before being considered a man, according to Jewish culture; *thirteen* was the *age of accountability*; celebrated today by the Jewish “**Bar Mitzvah**,” which means; “**son of the commandment.**”

(v.43-45) Family members, neighbors, and friends often traveled in “caravans” to Jerusalem for *safety* reasons; due to thieves. At this time Mary and Joseph more than likely had smaller children, and may have been distracted. Joseph probably thought Jesus was with Mary and the other children, while Mary, *given the age of Christ*, probably assumed He was with Joseph and the other men. (v.45) They had to travel a “day’s journey,” *probably around 20 miles*, back to Jerusalem. **Have you ever lost your child? We can only imagine the discussion Mary and Joseph had on the way back to Jerusalem!**

(v.46-52) These parents must have been “frantic.” They couldn’t put the face of Jesus on a “milk carton,” there was no “Amber alert.” However, after “three days” they find Him “teaching” in the Temple. ***Jewish teachers often conducted classes in the temple court. Mary’s response is the greatest evidence we have that Jesus wasn’t “black.”***☺ Some have argued, Mary’s statement, (v.48), “*Your father and I,*” suggest Joseph was the “father” of Jesus, thus denying the “virgin birth.” But in reality it only *reveals*, Joseph was accepted as the “legal” father of Jesus. **Jesus clears up the matter in verse 49; “...I must be about My Father’s business...”** It is clear He wasn’t speaking of His *step-father*, Joseph.

Mary and Joseph did not understand His statement (v.50). I find this fascinating, given the fact, they were visited by the *angel Gabriel, the shepherd’s, heard the words of Simeon, and Anna. It merely speaks of the fact; despite the revelation we have received from the Lord we still often struggle with “unbelief.”* (v.51, 52) Jesus returns with His parents to Nazareth; “...*and was subject to them...*” In remaining behind in Jerusalem He did not violate the 5th commandment; “***Honor thy father and mother...***” According to Jewish Law the father is the authority and covering in the home; Jesus was *simply* obeying His Father. Yet, that He might be “blameless” He *submitted* to Mary and Joseph. **In our text today we see God’s grace, and reproof.**

GRACE: Nazareth (v.39) the very name of the place **speaks of God’s compassion, and grace.** Nazareth, had a poor reputation. The disrepute which described Nazareth generally was attributed to the Galilean’s propensity for paganism, their lack of culture, and their rude dialect. It was the disciple Nathaniel who said to Philip; **(John 1:46) “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”** Jesus was not born in the Broadmoor, or North Briargate; He was born and raised in the “hood.” Places like South Central, L.A., Newark, etc. **He was not only despised for the “truth” but also for the fact that He came from among a people who were considered uncultured, low-class.** But here we see the greatness of God’s

“grace.” Out of that which is despised he brought forth something “good.” This is our Father’s nature, *creation; out of blackness and void came order and beauty*; so is His nature towards us. If we will surrender to His word and His will; God, by His **amazing grace**, is able to bring forth “good,” *despite* the mess we’ve been living in.

REPROOF: (*instruction*) Jesus said to His mother and step-father Joseph; **“Why did you seek Me?” Shouldn’t we seek you?** But as with many who seek God today; Jesus was saying: **“Why were you looking for Me in all the wrong places?”** Mary and Joseph, *for three days*, searched the alleys, the markets, etc. of Jerusalem; and after three days, they “finally” come to the temple. People spend all their lives looking for true *hope, truth and peace*, in all the wrong places. Song: **“Looking for “love” in all the wrong places!”** Even within the church, we often make this mistake. Turn to: **Revelation 2:1-5.**

CONCLUSION: What is our Father’s business? His word is His business. (Psalm 138:2) I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. Jesus was *asking, listening, and teaching* in the temple, (v.46, 47). Isn’t that the three-fold nature of His work in the temple of our hearts today? He’s *asking us the hard questions, listening to our inner most heart, and teaching us to obey His word.* When we quench the Holy Spirit we are denying the Holy Spirit access to the work place, our hearts. The results can be *spiritually devastating.* (*Email; “I had an affair; church in Florida*). We must allow our business to be His business; (*repentance – filing chapter 11; restructuring*); in order to be restored and healed.

(*Kinningham Furniture Warehouse*). The beauty of our Father’s business is, *despite our condition*, God never goes “out of business,” the business of **mercy, grace, and love. (Ephesians 2:8-10) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

