



Growing in the Favour of God.

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

Lk2:49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Questions arising from the text.

1. What kind of parents are Mary and Joseph?

Verse 44 gives us a clue. They were traveling in a group to and from Jerusalem.

We have to be careful not to view them through our western view of child rearing.

2. Is Jesus at fault here? Should he have kept his parents more informed?

Implication of this= did Jesus sin?

Immaturity different to rebellion- Jesus' humanity.

Jesus did real life. He placed himself in a rural backwater into a poor family where he was given the stigma of illegitimacy.

"When but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, born in the likeness of men:" Phil 2:7

Then in verse 46 And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

The reply that comes back are the 1st ever recorded words of Jesus.

"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

The first question – why were you looking for me reveals something of Jesus' naivety at the stage- his immaturity and humanity- I didn't realize you'd lost me?

The second question reveals his divinity.

Didn't you know that I'd be in my Father's house?

Growing in Favour

1. Jesus has a increasing awareness of who he is.

The number 1 way to experience the favour of God is to really hear what he says about who you are.

In the very next chapter we see the Holy Spirit settling on Jesus at his baptism and an audible voice from heaven saying "you are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased"

The Father didn't want Jesus to have the tiniest bit of doubt about the nature of his true identity. And he doesn't want you to be in any doubt whatsoever.

2. "about my Father's business"

Col. 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Col. 1:21 ¶ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Jesus was totally invested in God's mission:

Luke 19:10 - "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

* John 4:34- " My food...is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work."

* John 5:30 - "I seek not to please myself, but Him who sent me."

* John 17:1-4 - "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

Jesus grew in favour because he was on God's mission.

3. Favour through the way he lived his whole life.

52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

Implied from verse 52 that Jesus grew in favour through the way he lived his whole life.

God cannot love you any more than he already does. But by living the kind of life that fits in with heaven's principles can increase in the favour of God.

- Eph 6:2 "Honour your father and mother.....that it might go well with you"
- Matt. 8:10 When **Jesus** heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such **faith**."
- 1Pet. 5:5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. wClothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for x"God opposes the proud but gives **grace** to the **humble**."

Is. 58:7 Is it not I to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Is. 58:8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
- and your healing shall spring up speedily;

If you want to know the favour of God, then it makes sense to investigate which things- trigger the favour of God over our lives.

Summary

Jesus stands as a model for us. He grew in wisdom, stature and favour.

Are you growing?.....

- In maturity
- In understanding of who you really are in Christ
- In adopting the mission
- In finding favour through your life.