

**"GREAT EVENTS OF THE
BIBLE -- THE TEMPLE
VISIT AT AGE TWELVE."**



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(Slide #2) Introduction:

- A. In The Last Two Lessons We Have Seen Jesus As A Baby, As A Small Child Under Two, And As A Child Perhaps Four To Six Years Old When The Angel Told Joseph To Return To Israel And Ultimately To Nazareth.
- B. (►) In Tonight's Lesson We See An Amazing Event In The Life Of Jesus Some Six To Eight Years Later In Jerusalem.
- C. (►) Interestingly, God Gives Us NO Insight Into The Life Of Jesus From Age 4-6 Until Age 12.
 - 1. Only Matthew and Luke give information about His Birth.
 - a. Mark begins with the ministry of John the Baptizer and Jesus' baptism.
 - b. John begins with His Divine Nature; he then immediately goes to the ministry of John declaring that the Messiah is coming followed by the baptism of Jesus.
 - 2. The Bible is silent from his return from Egypt till age 12.
 - 3. Then It is silent from age 12 until age 30!
 - 4. Every suggestion by Apocryphal ["Hidden"; non-canonical] writings and Pseudopigrapha ["False Writings"] is no more than man-made folklore!
 - a. One of the most popular is the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* which supposedly gives details of His life between the return to Nazareth and age twelve.
 - b. Although there is speculation, the author is unknown.
 - c. Claims made in the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*:
 - 1. Jesus made birds of clay and then gave them life.
 - 2. He cursed a boy; the boy's body withered into a corpse.
 - 3. Later a boy supposed bumped into Him; he cursed the boy and he died.
 - 4. Joseph and Mary's neighbors complained about them; Jesus struck them blind.
 - 5. Jesus was playing on the roof with another boy; the boy fell off the roof and died. The boy's parents accused Jesus of throwing him off the roof. Jesus denied doing that. He raised the boy and told him to

tell his parents what really happened. The boy said, “You did not throw me down; you raised me up!”

6. He brought a dried fish to life.
 7. Jesus stretched a wood beam to help Joseph finish building a bed.
 - d. Early Christians saw this document as heresy; “Church fathers” like Hippolytus, Origen, and Eusebius also saw it as a heretical writing.
 - e. Consider the logical consequences of these “tales;” if they are true, Jesus violated His own teachings, sinned, and is **CERTAINLY NOT QUALIFIED TO BE OUR SAVIOR!!!**
- D. **(Slide #3)** Why Would God Only Give Us Information About The Earliest Events Of Jesus’ Life, Then Jump To Age Twelve, And Then Quickly Jump To Age 30?
1. This reminds me of information in the Old Testament. We are not given a history of all the nations of the world; It is a history of the Jewish people; therefore only details that are very important to their history is given.
 2. The same is true about Jesus.
 3. We learn who He truly is -- a Divine Being; we learn about His virgin Birth, His affirmation by the angelic host, his worship by the wise men, and His life being spared as Joseph took Him to Egypt. Tonight we see about **HOW AMAZING HE WAS** at age twelve, and then jump to His baptism and the beginning of His ministry.
- E. **(►)** Parents, Have You Ever Lost A Child While Shopping? In Your House? At The Church Building? It Can Be Terrifying! Think About Joseph And Mary’s Consternation In Our Text Tonight.

I. Our Text: Luke 2:41-50

- A. **(Slide #4)** “His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; ⁴⁴but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. **(Slide #5)** ⁴⁵So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶Now 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. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸So 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.’ **(Slide #6)** ⁴⁹And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you

not know that I must be about My Father's business?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. ⁵¹Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart."

B. (Slide #7) Every Year Joseph And Mary Traveled From Nazareth To Jerusalem To Observe The Passover Feast.

1. Why would they do that? It was required that all males over twelve years of age attend the three great feasts that God ordained for Israel!
 - a. Jesus now was obliged to keep the Passover observance.
 - b. Some think that this may have been the first Passover feast he attended; however, I seriously doubt that. Observe the first verse in our text: "His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 41
 - c. Interestingly He is still described by the Greek word "pai`~" meaning "a boy."
2. It was a memorial feast, eating a lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, reminding the Jews that when God struck the firstborn of the Egyptians, He spared the firstborn of the Israelites in the 10th Plague in Egypt. Ex. 12:1-48
3. That plague led to the immediate Exodus of Israel from Egypt.
4. Moses commanded this feast just before the 10th Plague occurred!
 - a. Ex. 12:14 "So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance."
 - b. Ex. 12:25 "It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service."
 - c. Describing the 10th Plague Moses said, "It *is* a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This *is* that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations." Ex. 12:42
 - d. He gave them more information in Ex. 13:3-10.
 - e. In Deut. 16:1-8, forty years later, God reminded the children of the adults who left Egypt about the Passover observance. Dt. 16:1-8
 - f. The Passover observance was followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread that lasted seven days. Lev. 23:5-8; Ex. 12:15-20; 23:15
5. When you read that Joseph and Mary "went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover", it tells you something about them!
 - a. They were very loyal to God's commands!
 - b. Joseph was an obedient man!
 1. Ex. 23:17 "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD."

2. It tells you about his obedient heart.
3. He was a godly head of his family.
- c. He and Mary went together every year.
 1. It tells you about their marriage.
 2. They were both devoutly loyal to God!
 3. They were a very spiritually united husband and wife!
 4. Wives were not commanded by the Law of Moses to attend; however, they were allowed to do so!
 - a. Hannah did that with Elkanah. I Sa. 1:7
 - b. In our text we see that Mary did too.
 - c. The Jewish school of Hillel taught that it was mandatory for Jewish women to attend the Passover! This was their tradition, not a demand of the Law of Moses.

C. (►) This Great Event Of The Bible Occurred When Jesus Was Twelve Years Old.

1. This would have been the first time that Jesus, now viewed as a man under Jewish culture, would have been required to attend the Passover.
2. The family was in Jerusalem for the Passover and all seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
3. After eight days, the family began the journey back home; Jesus remained in Jerusalem.

D. (►) Joseph And Mary Assumed That Jesus Was In Their “Company.”

1. Families and Jewish brethren from the same community likely traveled together.
2. Joseph and Mary, called his mother, thought Jesus was with relatives or acquaintances. Observe how precise the Bible is -- Mary was his mother; Joseph was not really his father!
3. However at the end of the day, they could not find Him. Imagine their consternation as they searched among all the caravan!
4. People might travel twenty to thirty miles during a day.

E. (►) Because They Could Not Find Him, They Made The Day-long Journey Back To Jerusalem.

1. They had to retrace their trip the next day.
2. This had to be a very frustrating and emotional journey!

3. Mary describes them as being “greatly distressed.” 48
- F. (Slide #8) The Next Day, They Found Him In The Temple.
1. They searched the city of Jerusalem for Him.
 2. If he had been going to Jerusalem with the every year for the Passover Feast, He likely knew the city VERY WELL.
 - a. There was likely little danger of Him getting lost!
 - b. I remember in Belarus when parents allowed young boys ten to twelve years old to go the Metro, travel all the way across Minsk on the subway, and have NO FEAR of them getting lost! Many American parents would be incredulous at such an idea!
 3. He was not messing in trouble; He was not carousing; He was not stealing; He was not seeking “far country living” like the Prodigal Son, Lk. 15:13; He was not in the “pig pen,” Lk. 15:15,16. He was in the Temple -- His Father’s House!
 4. He was sitting among the teachers of the Law of Moses.
 - a. These men would have been Jewish rabbis.
 - b. In this text is the only time in Scripture that they are called “teachers.”
 - c. They were men who understood and taught the Law.
 5. He was both listening to them and asking them questions! He was there both as a student and as a teacher!
 6. All were amazed at His understanding and at His answers.
 7. Wouldn’t you like to know the topics of those discussions and questions?
- G. (►) Mary Expressed Their Perplexed Concern.
1. They were amazed at what they saw.
 2. They were also perplexed.
 3. Mary asked, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” 48
 4. Image their concerns: What if something terrible had happened to this Messiah and Savior? They would NEVER have been able to “live it down!”
- H. (►) Jesus’ Reply: “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” 49
1. At first this answer confused and confounded them.

2. Jesus' reply addressed His Father, not Joseph! [Mary said, "Your father and I have sought You anxiously."
 3. Jesus was expressing His concern about His Heavenly Father and His Will and that It was properly taught and understood!
 4. "Father's business" -- "the things of My Father!" or "the affairs of My Father!"
 5. Imagine how they must have responded to His reply!
 - a. They did not immediately comprehend what He was saying.
 - b. However, imagine the impact of this later -- as it sank in, they probably began to contemplate what He was saying.
 - c. Mary knew that Joseph was not Jesus' "father." Surely she must have begun to surmised what Jesus meant!
 - d. This answer may have awakened their hearts -- it reminded them of who He really was and what His mission truly was!
- I. (►) He Returned To Nazareth And Was An Obedient Son To Them. 51
1. He was a respectful, obedient son.
 2. He assisted Joseph in his carpentry business. Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3
- J. (►) Mary "Kept All These Things In Her Heart!"
1. She pondered all these events and what Jesus said about His attention to the things of His Father!
 2. Remember this same phrase in Lk. 2:18,19 when the shepherds had come to worship Jesus. "And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart."

II. (Slide #9) Verse 52 Describes The Eighteen Years From Age Twelve To Age Thirty.

- A. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."
- B. He Advanced From Being A Boy To Being A Man!
- C. He Continued To Mature Physically; He Learned How To Interact With People; He Pleased The Father In All That He Did.

D. He Grew Intellectually, Physically, Spiritually, And Socially!

III. (Slide #10) Lessons From The Event:

A. (►) Husbands And Wives -- Be Deeply Devoted Together In The Service Of God!

1. It gives you strength and support “under your own roof” to help stimulate you to be at His ordained worship services!
2. Appreciate your godly mate!
3. Encourage, admonish, and hold each other accountable in your service to the Lord.
4. Do it together!!!
5. And if your mate is not a Christian and does not attend with you, GOD BLESS YOU for your conviction, your faith, and your drive! NEVER LOSE IT!

B. (►) Families Need To Have Spiritual Focuses!

1. Joseph and Mary took their son to God’s House!
2. They taught him by their examples and by their observance of the Passover to know God and to know of His amazing love and abundant care for Israel!
3. Parents need to be taking their children to Bible Classes, worship, and every opportunity congregationally so their children grow up in love with the Lord and the Church!
4. If other interests and things are the focus [sports, school, social media] you are setting patterns that will lead your young people AWAY FROM GOD NO TO GOD!

C. (►) Young People, Be Devoted To The Lord NOW!

1. Jesus, at age twelve, made a CONSCIOUS DECISION to remain in Jerusalem.
2. Spiritual matters were His greatest concern!
3. Young people, make conscious decisions to put God first, to love His Word, to become a Christian, to love the Church, to be with Christian young people, and to live a godly life for Him!

- D. (►) Seek To Be Deeply Knowledgeable Of The Scriptures!
1. You see that in Jesus!
 2. His questions and teachings amazed those who heard Him.
 3. Remember that this occurred when he was twelve years old.
 4. NO WONDER later in life you see people amazed at His knowledge and teaching!
 - a. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, we are told “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Mt. 7:28,29
 - b. In the Synagogue at Capernaum when He taught, the observation is made “And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Mk. 1:22
 - c. Later in Jn. 7:14,15 “Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. ¹⁵And the Jews marveled, saying, ‘How does this Man know letters, having never studied?’”
 - d. And soon after, Jewish officers observed, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” Jn. 7:46
 5. Young people, SEEK THE WORD! LONG FOR IT! DEMAND IT of your Church leaders -- elders, ministers, Bible Class teachers, and parents!
 6. Be determined to KNOW His Will; be determined to proclaim It and to defend It as long as you live!!!!