

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are Christian parents' specific responsibilities? (2 Corinthians 12:14; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 5:8)
2. Compare and contrast the dedication at birth in Old Testament times with the self-dedication that should accompany today's new birth in Jesus. (Romans 12:1-2)
3. Why are Simeon's and Anna's experiences important to the birth of Jesus?
4. To what extent are parents responsible for their children's spiritual well being?

SUMMARY:

In the Old Testament all of the first-born were to be set apart for the Lord. In keeping with this command, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to be presented to the Lord. The New Testament, on the other hand, stresses the nurturing or bringing up of the children in the fear of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21) While this may not make certain that the children will turn to God, it will afford them the opportunity of knowing the will of God. Likewise, salvation's new birth should begin a life of total dedication and service to our Master.

NOTES:

[SoF:4] We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life. He died on the cross for us. His shed blood is the atonement for our sins.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

October 29, 2017

Fourth Quarter

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:21-38

LESSON SETTING: The Temple in Jerusalem

TIME: Approximately six weeks after Jesus was born.

- I. PRESENTATION BY THE PARENTS.** Luke 2:22-27
 - A. All Firstborn Were to be Sanctified. Exodus 13:2
 - B. Firstborn Were Hallowed - When the Firstborn in Egypt Were Smitten. Numbers 3:13
- II. THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON.** Luke 2:28-35
 - B. Simeon Knew of Christ's Coming—by Revelation of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. He Prophesied Concerning Christ's Mission on Earth.
 - C. He Prophesied of Christ's Suffering and Death. [SoF:4] Luke 2:34-35
- III. THE PRAISE OF ANNA.** Luke 2:36-38
 - A. Anna Was a Prophetess. Luke 2:36
 - B. She Was Devoted Entirely to God's Service and Lived in the Temple. Luke 2:37
 - C. She Gave Thanks and Praised God and Spoke Concerning Christ to All Who Were Expecting Him. Luke 2:36-38

GOLDEN TEXT: FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION.

Luke 2:30

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 2:39-52

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Leviticus 23:1-8;
Deuteronomy 16:1-8, 16-17;
2 Peter 1:5-8

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ the Son of Man

TOPIC: THE YEARS AT NAZARETH

INTRODUCTION:

This lesson is intended to show that we need to be spiritually dependable in our responsibilities if God's work is to be carried on successfully. However, there may be a deeper message in this lesson—to us as parents and adults in the body of Christ—of a responsibility to our youth today.

Jesus at the age of twelve, had a depth of understanding that astounded the doctors of religion, and the crowds of people gathered about. Certainly this wisdom came from the Spirit of God within Him rather than from any personal achievement. The tutoring Jesus received was from his parents rather than from any school. And the increase of wisdom was from God, not man. As Paul stated to the Corinthians, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

So it was with Jesus and so it is with our youth today. Who can measure the Spirit within the hearts of youth today, and what is our responsibility to them?

Knowing the true origin of her son, it is surprising to us that Mary did not understand what Jesus meant by "being about my Father's business." Yet this experience did not leave her—she stored it in her heart. Many times we tend to be like Mary, knowing the origin of our children yet not alert to the working of the Spirit within their hearts. When the Holy Spirit takes hold of a man, it is a marvelous thing, but we fail many times to see the grip that God has on our lives, the lives of others and the lives of our youth. It is a glorious thing to read that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in FAVOR WITH GOD and man. May our children be so blessed.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God wants to use us to prepare the way for the Savior.

GOLDEN TEXT: AND JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM AND STATURE, AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN. Luke 2:52

Though Jesus is the very Son of God, He still had to go through a period of physical growth and development in His human form. This is just another point in which He was no different than we. He didn't skip this stage of life, but He passed through the same stages of development as we. Yet He was obedient to His parents' wishes and was without sin. As He did at the marriage of Cana, He obeyed His mother's wishes rather than press His own objectives that He knew also to be right.

As we read in Isaiah 40:31, "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint." With this abiding truth, Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 30 – Nov. 5

- M. Prayer for Wisdom. 1 Kings 3:3-15
- T. Perfection of Divine Wisdom. Psalm 19:7-14
- W. The Voice of Wisdom. Proverbs 8:1-36
- T. *The Years at Nazareth. Luke 2:39-52
- F. The Expense of Divine Wisdom. Romans 11:25-36
- S. The Message of Wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- S. The Availability of True Wisdom. James 1:1-7

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