

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to “be about my Father’s business?”
What is God’s “business”?
2. Why did Mary and Joseph not understand Christ’s response? (vs. 49, 50)
3. Is it important for a Christian to increase in favor with man as well as God?
4. Was Jesus at the age of 12 any less qualified to carry on the Father’s business than he was at the age of 30? At what age does one become qualified?

SUMMARY:

Jesus spent his youth at home with the tutoring of his parents rather than the tutoring of the church authorities. Even with this meager amount of schooling, he was able to surpass the wisdom of the ancients. Though his parents seem to have been unaware of the working of the Spirit within his heart, Jesus had not forgotten the purpose for which he was sent to this earth. Whenever he was asked what he was doing, He always had a ready answer, “Know ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” “I must work the works of Him that sent me.”^[SoF:4] “My Father worketh hitherto and I work.” “The works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me.” From His early youth till His trial before the Sanhedrin, Jesus was keenly aware of His mission.

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 #6

November 5, 2017

Fourth Quarter

THE YEARS AT NAZARETH

LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:39-52

LESSON SETTING: In the town of Nazareth of Galilee where Jesus spent his boyhood.

TIME: Approximately 8 or 9 A.D.

I. A GROWING CHILD. Luke 2:39-40

- A. Growing in Spirit (vs. 40) Isaiah 11:2-3
- B. Filled with Wisdom (vs. 40) Matthew 13:54

II. AN AMAZING CHILD. Luke 2:41-50

- A. A Dependable Child (vs. 49) 1 Samuel 2:18; 2 Kings 5:2-3; John 9:4

III. A DEVELOPING CHILD. Luke 2:51-52

- A. An Obedient Child (vs. 51) Hebrews 5:8
- B. Divine Favor (vs. 52) Proverbs 3:3-4, 12:2
- C. Human Favor (vs. 52) Acts 2:46-47; Romans 14:17-18

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 4:16-30

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 61:1-11; John 5:17-47;
John 8:31-36

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ the Son of Man

TOPIC: JESUS REJECTED AT NAZARETH

INTRODUCTION:

Although Luke was not an apostle of the Lord as Matthew and John were, he reveals more details of this episode concerning the fulfillment of a major prophecy. Paul, to whom was given special revelation of the new dispensation of grace, recognized in this account history's turning point. Quite possibly he was able to convey to Luke its tremendous importance.

Please turn to the original prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-3. Notice the division in the middle of the second verse, where Jesus puts the period. Isaiah wasn't told that centuries would elapse between God's proclamation and His day of vengeance. In this intervening time is the dispensation of grace. During Jesus' earthly stay, He said, "I came not to judge the world but to save the world" (John 12:47) and to this end He did everything He could for man. The promises listed in the prophecy are:

- binding up the brokenhearted
- proclaiming liberty to the captives
- opening of prisons to those who are bound.

Here are the basic needs of unbelieving, suffering, sin-sick humanity. Christ came, not only to lighten the load, but also to do away with these burdens in many a life.

In the second part of the prophecy, the language waxes lyrical with the promise of blessings yet to come, blessings we will know in the millennium and in Heaven:

- beauty for ashes
- oil of joy for mourning
- the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

We have a foretaste of these blessings in our spiritual peaks now.

CENTRAL TRUTH: As Christians following Christ, we should be prepared to face misunderstanding and opposition.

GOLDEN TEXT: A PROPHET IS NOT WITHOUT HONOUR, BUT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, AND AMONG HIS OWN KIND, AND IN HIS OWN HOUSE.
Mark 6:4

It is a sad fact of life that a man's foes are often those of his own household. The very place God ordained should be the place of understanding, of encouragement and of love, was the place where Jesus encountered the most unbelief, discouragement and even hatred: among His family and the townspeople who knew Him so intimately. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." If He was even acutely homesick for His heavenly home, He didn't betray it. He went bravely into every hard situation without being deterred or deflected into an easier path.

Skim through the Gospel of John and notice the many times His life was in danger, the times he was told he was crazy, or wrong, or of Satan. Faithful proclamation of the Gospel message will never be popular in this world, but despite the ridicule of God's plan for saving people, despite the way it is hawked on the street corners, twisted at the pulpits, disputed and doubted and denied by men high and low, it is still "power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 6 – 12

- M. Suffering Rewarded. 2 Kings 6:8-17
- T. People and Unbelief. Matthew 13:53-58
- W. Jesus Tempted. Luke 4:1-13
- T. *Jesus Rejected. Luke 4:16-30
- F. Delivered from Suffering. Luke 4:31-37
- S. Delivered from Suffering. Luke 4:38-44
- S. Christ's Suffering. 1 Peter 1:10-25

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