

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

Growing and Maturing

Reading: Hebrews 5:7-14

Since the ***Magi*** disregarded the wishes of *King Herod* and listened to the divine instruction from God in a dream, the Child Jesus was spared death and given the opportunity to grow and mature physically and intellectually.

Little to nothing is known about Jesus as a toddler and only a small portion is known about His preteen Years. What we do know is recorded in **Luke 2**.

Luke 2:39-52 (Slide 2)

39 When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. 40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. *The result of all facets of His growth physically and intellectually was caused by this special Grace God bestowed upon Jesus. He had developed wisdom beyond his years via God's Grace as we will soon read.*

(Slide 3) 41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; 43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, (Slide 4) the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, 44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. (Slide 5) 45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. 46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were (Slide 6) amazed at His understanding and His answers. 48 When they saw Him, they

were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You."

There was distress in her voice as would be any parent searching for their child for three days.

49 And He said to them, (Slide 7) "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. 51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, (Slide 8) and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Deep Bond of Love

I suspect Mary ***"treasured all these things in her heart"*** quite often. She knew her son was special because of the miraculous way He was conceived, because of His growth and development from an intellectual standpoint and likely from other things He said that are simply not recorded.

Jesus is special to Mary and without doubt Mary is special to Jesus. During this time of physical and intellectual growth, I think it easy to surmise that Jesus developed a deep bond of Love for His mother and His father.

As He suffered on the cross, His undying love and admiration for His mother was expressed in committing her care to John. His instruction was out of love and concern that she would be taken care of after He was gone.

John 19:25b-27 (Slide 9)

25b But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (Slide 10) 27 Then He said to the

disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

“Woman, behold, your son!” - Jesus is saying this is the one you will depend on to take care of you!

What was being said about Him

Mary also knew that he was special because of what others said about Him. We heard last week what the devout and spiritual man Simeon said about the Child Jesus,

for my eyes have seen your salvation

Simeon also said this about the Child Jesus:

Luke 2:33-35 (Slide 11)

33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— (Slide 12) 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Purpose

That’s an amazing statement. The contextual meaning for the word appointed means *“to set in place for a purpose.”*

By the age of 12, Jesus knew His purpose-***“Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”***

The NKJV uses the phrase ***My Father’s business.***

Jesus knew His purpose at the age of 12. There are so many people who are wanderers intellectually and physically today who at 40 years old still don’t know their purpose. Some never know what their purpose was supposed to be. Sometimes people have so little self-control, physically

desiring things that wreak havoc on their ability to grow intellectually. Because their mind is damaged, many give up the search.

The Christian has a purpose: To be like Christ!

Ephesians 2:10 (Slide 13)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Sorrow of a Mother

Another statement Simeon made when the Child was still very young was: ***"a sword will pierce even your own soul"***

I'm sure that was a difficult statement to understand. Perhaps her life would have been even more difficult if she did know exactly what it meant. Yet, Mary would experience what Simeon said in real time as she watched her beloved Son die on the cross.

Division

One of the inevitable events that would come because of Jesus' teaching was division. People would have to choose whether to believe Him or not. That's what Simeon means when he says:

Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel

The result of His ministry would be a division between non-believers and believers as is the case today. One principle statement Jesus made validating this truth is the dividing the sheep from the goats and also in this statement:

Matthew 23:12 (Slide 14)

Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

The standard of which one will be judged is if our lives reflect the life and humility of Christ. A principle that all in Christ must come to learn.

Interpersonal Relationships

Jesus developed interpersonal skills that are extremely desirable even yet today. In fact, certain circumstances in life would be easier and perhaps more transparently understood.

In Luke's Gospel record he records this about Jesus at 12 years of age in the temple:

Luke 2:46 (Slide 15)

Now 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.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone listened before they responded? Not only did He listen and ask questions, he responded in a very thoughtful and analytical way. That's evident from what Matthew states: ***And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.***

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone formulated responses based upon what they heard rather than what they perceived they heard or what they have in their mind already as to what the answer should be?

Jesus listened and asked questions. This was not only great for learning, it was great for developing compassion and understanding. I believe Jesus approached His ministry with these fundamental person to person skills.

Jesus understands the Human Condition

We know from the Hebrew letter (**Hebrews 4**) that Jesus our High Priest understands our temptations and can sympathize with our weaknesses. I believe that's why Peter makes this statement:

1 Peter 5:6-7 (Slide 16)

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Discipline

Without a doubt Jesus learned discipline. Discipline from His parents so that he would know right from wrong. Self-control, and resistance of those things that are harmful to the body as well as the soul.

Apostle Paul says that we are to discipline the body, forcefully if necessary, so we can keep it in submission. Discipline should be handed down from parents to children so that one can function civilly in society.

I've mentioned this before but one of my favorite statements that I have seen in many classrooms is this:

"Discipline yourself so no one has to!"

Respect and Obedience

In Jesus' statement to His parents after they found Him in the temple, we see His self-discipline along with great "respect" for His parents in His response. He didn't speak by talking back or scolding His parents. Rather He spoke with clarity and passion about what He must do.

When they as a family returned home, Jesus demonstrated how all children should act toward their parents.....**He continued in subjection to them.....**

This was the right thing to do.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (Slide 17)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

He learned to read

It's really exciting and wonderful to witness your children and your grandchildren first learning how to read. You are witnessing growth and the development of independence.

They will read everything from menus, road signs and billboards. As parents and grandparents it's imperative that we encourage them to practice that skill by reading the Holy Bible. It fills your heart to hear them read the wonderful stories within its pages.

Certainly Jesus learned to read. He likely learned to read measuring devices as a helper in His father's carpentry work.

His Public Reading

Luke 4:16-21 (Slide 18)

16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

(Slide 19) ***18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,***

19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

(Slide 20) ***20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."***

Invitation

What have we learned? Have we grown as we learn more about Jesus? Are we ready for solid food? Do we understand that to put on Christ we may

suffer with Him as well? Do we understand that God's Grace can help us endure until the end if we are willing to grow in our faith?

Jesus learned obedience through suffering on the cross and became our High Priest forever of which through Him salvation is offered.

Don't let it escape you. Put on Christ through baptism who is our only source for eternal salvation.....

If you are in Christ but need the prayers of your brethren to grow toward solid foods of the spirit or you have a need in which we can help, please let us know.....

Let your wish be known.....

Reading

Hebrews 5:7-14

7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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