

JESUS AT 12

Luke 2:39-52

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. You might expect the Bible to say a lot about the boyhood of Jesus...but the Bible says very little about the life of our Lord from the time He returned from Egypt as an infant...until He began His public ministry at the age of 30.
- b. Those 28 or so years are called by scholars...as the “silent years” or “hidden years” of Jesus’ life.
- c. Of course, there has been a great deal of speculation...as to what Jesus did and said and what He was like and where He went...during these “hidden years.”
- d. Writings known as the “apocryphal gospels”...and other uninspired writings ... contain all kinds of fanciful stories and spurious stories of things Jesus supposedly said and did during these years...none of which are reliable or true.
- e. The only reliable source concerning the life of Jesus is the Bible...and it gives us only a few brief glimpses into what Jesus was like as he grew up in Nazareth...what He was like during His boyhood, teenage years and young adulthood years.

II. THE FAMILY LIFE OF JESUS-

- a. We know that Jesus grew up in a typical Jewish home in the city of Nazareth in the province of Galilee...the earthly father of Jesus...or the “supposed” father of Jesus as Luke calls him in Luke 3:23...was a man named Joseph.
- b. Joseph was a working class man...a carpenter by trade...and the mother of Jesus of course was a woman named Mary.
- c. We also know that Jesus also grew up in a home with brothers and sisters...these were children who were born to Mary and Joseph after the virgin birth of Christ.

- d. Mark 6:3 identified the brothers of Jesus as James, Joses, Judas, and Simon...and that verse says He had at least two sisters.
- e. The education of Jesus would have begun at a very early age in His home ... and He would have attended synagogue school with other children in Nazareth until He reached the age of 12 or 13.
- f. Every Jewish son was to be taught a trade...Joseph taught Jesus how to be a carpenter ... *Mark 6:3 (NKJV) "Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary..."*
- g. Jesus was no doubt an obedient and loving son...and a loving and caring brother to His half-siblings.
- h. It is assumed that Joseph died sometime after the event recorded in this passage ...because the gospels do not mention him again as being alive.
- i. After Joseph died as the oldest son...Jesus would have become the leader of His family...He would have become responsible for the care of His siblings until they became adults...and He would have become responsible for the care and welfare of His mother.
- j. That is why when Jesus was dying on the cross...He committed the care of His mother to John His disciple.

III. THE SOCIAL LIFE OF JESUS-

- a. Jesus was a perfect...He would have been the perfect son...the perfect brother ... and the perfect neighbor.
- b. There is no doubt that Jesus would have been loved by His family...and respected by all who lived in Nazareth as He was growing up.
- c. But while Jesus was perfect...and certainly extraordinary in every way...there is no indication that either His family or His neighbors in Nazareth...had any idea of

His full or true identity.

- d. As Jesus was growing and maturing...His deity was so veiled by His humanity ... that no one in His family...other than His earthly parents...and no one in Nazareth ... had any idea of He really was.
- e. Jesus did no miracles until after He began His public ministry...John 2:11 says that Jesus turning water into wine was the first miracle that he performed.
- f. Jesus was certainly exceptional as He was growing up...but He appeared to be normal...the Bible says that after He began His public ministry ...His siblings thought He was crazy...and the people of Nazareth were offended by Him...they turned on Him and on one occasion tried to kill Him.
- g. When did Jesus become aware of who He was?...*Luke 2:49 (NKJV) "And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*...this verse shows that from a very early age Jesus was aware of His true identity and His mission.
- h. What did Jesus look like?...What was His physical appearance?...We have no idea! ...as a Jewish person He probably would have had olive skin, dark hair and dark eyes.

IV. THE FAITH LIFE OF JESUS-

- a. The Bible gives us an insight into the faith life of Jesus...as He was growing in Nazareth.
- b. We know that Mary and Joseph were people of great faith so Jesus was raised in a home where God was loved, worshipped and served.
- c. We know that as Jesus was growing up...He was faithful to attend the weekly services that were held in the local synagogue...*Luke 4:16 (NKJV) "So He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He*

went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day... ”

- d. When Jesus was 12 to celebrate His *bar mitzvah*...He went with His parents to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.
- e. The people of Nazareth would travel to Jerusalem and back as a group...the ladies and children would walk together...followed by the men.
- f. When the Passover was over...and the people of Nazareth started home ... Joseph assumed that Jesus was with Mary...and Mary assumed that Jesus was with Joseph ...it was not until they stopped for the night that they discovered Jesus was not with a group.
- g. The next day Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem...and on the following day they found Jesus in the Temple...discussing the Word of God with the teachers of the Bible.
- h. Luke says that the teachers of the Law were amazed and astonished at the wisdom, knowledge, insight and understanding that Jesus had of the Bible...no wonder...He wrote the Book!
- i. While Mary chided Jesus...it was her and Joseph's responsibility to make sure that they knew where Jesus was...he was the child and they were the parents...Jesus had done precisely what any child should do under such circumstances...He went to a safe, public place, in the presence of trusted adults, where His parents could be expected to come looking for Him.
- j. Jesus was genuinely amazed that Mary and Joseph did not know where to look for Him...Jesus had come to do the Father's business...and more than anyone they should have known to look for Him in the Father's House.
- k. *Luke 2:51-52 (NKJV) “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom (intellectually) and stature (physically), and in favor*

with God (spiritually) and men (socially).”

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. Family is important...raising our children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord is important...how we relate to our community is important...our faith is important...being about the Father's business is important.
- b. What is the Father's business today?...preaching the gospel and winning souls ... loving others and serving God...being a blessing to our family and those around us.