

**Introduction**

- 1 What was it like for the household of Joseph & Mary as Jesus, the Son of God was growing up?
- 2 Luke has much to tell Theophilus & us about the birth of Jesus in chapters 1-2, his life etc. 3-24
- 3 In 2:40-52 we have the only details about Jesus's life between the ages of 2 and 30 years old
- 4 From 1:2 Luke makes it clear that as a Non-Jew his gospel comes from eyewitnesses of events
- 5 Travelling with Paul, Luke spent some time in Ephesus, where Mary the mother of Jesus lived
- 6 Is thought Mary told Luke re various things **eg** angel Gabriel told re Jesus' birth 1:26-38
- 7 Luke showed no evidence 12yo Jesus had total wisdom, performed miracles-came later Mk 6:1-

**I Joseph and Mary****A Roles of Jewish mothers and fathers in those days**

- 1 In 1<sup>st</sup> 6 yrs, Jewish son was raised by mother, creating very strong emotional tie betw them
- 2 From 7-8 the father assumed responsibility to teach his trade and teach God's command's
- 3 Deut 6:7 required fathers to teach God's word regularly, also taught at synagogue school
- 4 Was an honour/shame society where children were loyal to their family-disobed. affects all
- 5 Father of the house was responsible for discipline, so family was judged by their unity

**B 2:39-43a Their devotion to the Old Testament Law of Moses**

- 1 **2:39** Joseph & Mary very carefully obeyed OT law-circumcision on 8<sup>th</sup> day, naming child..
- 2 They are great eg to other parents of serving God together – couples should pray, discuss...
- 3 **2:41** Also regularly went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover - Israel's escape from Egypt
- 4 To go from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the annual Passover was expensive, dangerous
- 4 To prevent attack from bandits, people used to travel as a group as it took several days.
- 5 **2:42** The 12th year was the final year of preparation for a boy before he entered full participation in the religious life of the community-**Bar Mitzvah**-son of the commandment
- 6 He would then assume full responsibility to live before God in accordance with OT laws
- 7 **2:43a** At end of the Passover Feast, Joseph/Mary headed home with others from Nazareth

**C 2:43b-46a,48 Jesus did not return with them, so they spent 3 days finding him**

- 1 **2:43** Probably Joseph walked with men & Mary with women, so didn't notice his absence
- 2 **2:44-45** A day's journey would be a long way, especially if they were walking –not happy
- 3 Like walking to Sydney and then having to return- two inconsistent things stand out
  - a Jesus' apparent disregard for his parents' time and feelings.
  - b The implicit faith Mary and Joseph have in their 12 year son to look after himself
- 4 If he'd been irresponsible, they would have checked up on him, but trusted his judgement
- 5 This suggests that Jesus' motive in staying behind was not carelessness nor disrespect.
- 6 Seems he intentionally let them go to teach them something very important about himself
- 7 The 3 days probably was 1 day's journey, 1 day return walk and 1 day to find him
- 8 **2:46a** After those 3 days they found him at the temple courts amongst the law teachers
- 9 **2:48** Joseph and Mary were amazed to see their 12 yo son talking with these intellectuals
- 10 Stressed Mary asked why he had done this to them
  - a They had wasted 3 days of travel
  - b They would not now have the protection of travelling companions on their return walk
  - c Joseph would be shamed in their culture as not being able to control his 12 year old son

**II Jesus, the 12 year old boy, just about to be welcomed into the synagogue as a Jewish man****A 2:46-47 His desire to increase in his knowledge & understanding of Old Testament law**

- 1 Joseph/Mary found a Jesus sitting among the teachers of the law in the temple courts
  - b He listened;
  - c He asked them questions; and
  - d He gave answers.
- 2 He began by listening to their teaching, only then asked questions, interacted with them

3 **2:47** They were amazed at his understanding, quality of his questions/answers for a 12yo  
 4 There is no indication that he fully showed his omniscience (all knowledge) as God's Son  
 5 This time at the temple would have introduced Jesus to the many traditions of the elders  
 who had added to the OT laws, placing great burden on people to obey manmade laws  
 6 As we study the gospels we find Jesus opposed the Pharisees, teachers **eg** Math 5:27-8  
 "You have heard that it was said.... But I tell you that" – 5:21-22; 5:31-32 etc. – 6 times  
 7 Jesus had been learning OT law, now asked questions to find out how they had twisted it  
 8 If Lord had such a desire to learn more, how much more should we desire to study Bible  
 9 As we read the Bible it's amazing to see how God has perfectly fitted it together in 1 book

#### **B 2:48-49 Jesus declares his priority from the start - to serve God his heavenly Father 1<sup>st</sup>**

1 **2:48** Joseph/Mary were upset with Jesus after finding him at the temple-why did you do it  
 2 **2:49** Jesus' answer showed He was surprised his parents did not know something very  
 significant about himself - They did not realize how important it was for him to be in the  
 House of his Heavenly Father to learn and be involved in God, the Father's work  
 3 His words show a consciousness of his sinless human nature, rather than his divine nature  
 4 Jesus pointed to his personal duty to his Father in heaven. He contrasted his **My Father** **49**  
 with Mary's "**your father**" **v48**. At 12yo He was aware of his unique relationship to God  
 5 Luke had recorded how parents had been told about who Jesus was before/after his birth  
**a 1:31-32** Angel Gabriel told Mary "**You will give birth to a son .. He'll be great &**  
**called the Son of the Most High**" **b 2:11,17** Shepherds came to worship baby after  
 vision from angels. **c 2:25-38** Simeon, Anna told parents was the promised Messiah  
 6 Mary should have remembered what had been said about Jesus some 12 years earlier  
 7 Jesus made it very clear His 1<sup>st</sup> priority was God, with earthly family taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
 8 Luke **11:27-28** woman called out "**Blessed is the mother who gave you birth & nursed**  
**you.**" He replied "**Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.**"

#### **C 2:50-51 Joseph and Mary did not understand, but Jesus obeyed them in every way**

1 **2:50** It was very clear to the 12 year old, his earthly parents didn't understand who he was  
 2 **2:51** Although God, his Heavenly Father was No 1 in his life, this 12yo was preparing to  
 also become "a son of the law", who must obey God's 10 commandments, other OT laws  
 3 The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment- Ex 20 "Honour Your parents"-This is what he did, as we should  
 4 He had a unique relationship with God, but here on earth God placed his parents over him  
Phil 2:7-8 **Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to**  
**be grasped, but made himself nothing, .... as a man, he humbled himself,.. obeyed**  
 5 Would not have been easy as they **a** Would not have been his equal intellectually **b** Were  
 sinful **c** would make decisions he wouldn't have made, but he was willing to obey them  
 6 He was God-centred, obedient, sinless - all around him were naturally self-centred/sinful  
 7 But did everyone in their family really understand what it meant for Jesus to be God's Son  
 8 If they had, it would have made a normal relationship in the house almost impossible  
 9 But it is Jesus' likeness to people then, that shines thru' these narratives of his early years  
 10 The mystery of his full divinity had to be partly concealed from people during his time on  
 earth, otherwise how could his humanity and how that relates to us, be fully understood?

#### **D 2:40, 52 Grew in wisdom, in favour with God and man**

1 Wisdom is much more than knowledge – being able to apply that knowledge in daily life  
 2 **2:40** He grew in body, mind, spirit from childhood thru' boyhood into young manhood  
 3 His human nature was perfect and complete at each stage of its development-G's grace  
 4 **2:52** Although Jesus was God, there appear to be no verses which tell us that he had full  
 knowledge & wisdom from birth.-He seems to have gradually matured like any other boy  
 5 As God increased His grace/favour towards Jesus, so He was accepted by those in Galilee

### **III Things to learn from the Lord's early childhood**

- 1 Joseph and Mary are a great example of how faithfully to worship God as a family
- 2 Lord Jesus taught each born-again Christian how to
  - a Give God first place in their lives over all else and everyone else
  - b Honour and obey their parents **except when** this conflicts with God's word
  - c Work hard to increase their wisdom and Bible understanding
- 3 Take every opportunity to study God's word, ask questions, learn from sermons, attend Bible studies –Why don't you decide to read the Bible thru' in 2011- in planned way?
- 4 In this way Luke sets the stage for the adult ministry of the Son of God 18 yrs later from 3:1