

The Day Jesus Went AWOL-9/4/16

Luke 2:39-52 The Return to Nazareth+ Jesus in the Temple

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. **43** And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, **44** but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, **45** and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. **46** After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. **48** And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." **49** And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" **50** And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. **51** And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Significant statements regarding the story of Jesus' absence

1. This is the only inspired, biblically recorded incident in the youthful years of our Lord
2. In this account are recorded the very first words of our Lord Jesus
3. This is the last time that Joseph is ever mentioned in the life of our Lord
4. The actions of our Lord, in the minds of Mary and Joseph, appear to be wrong
5. This account is bookended by strong statements regarding our Lord's growing in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man.

Simple story-What does it mean? Options?

1. Take this story as a kind of anecdote
2. A second, but unacceptable, option is to understand that Jesus was wrong
3. A third option is to view Jesus as a kind of "absent minded" Messiah
4. The fourth option is that Jesus' parents were negligent
5. The final option is that Jesus was right in what He did, and His parents were wrong in being angry with Him and rebuking Him

Several reasons for Jesus' actions

Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem to;

Learn of God-The Son of God, fully God and fully man, needed to learn and develop in His grasp of God's Word
Stayed in Jerusalem to learn from the teachers at the temple those things that His parents could not teach Him
Jesus remained because He would not have been given permission to stay there
Jesus did not ask permission to stay in Jerusalem because He was God

Passage purpose

Affirms the humanity and deity of our Lord-reminds us of the principles of growth-reminds us of the relationship between deity and sovereignty-informs us of the relationship between sovereignty and authority

Application Principles

1. As God is our Heavenly Father our ultimate obedience must be to Him, and not to any earthly authority
2. Nothing should hinder us from access to those things which contribute to our spiritual growth
3. It is extremely difficult for those who believe in the divine and the human to recognize the two without sacrificing one or the other

The most important issue, which determines all else in life, is the answer to the question,
"Who is Jesus Christ?"

Will you immerse yourself in the disciplines our Lord submitted to in order to know and obey His Father, in order to know Him?