

Quarter Theme: Many Faces of Wisdom

Unit Theme: Wisdom in the Gospels

July 12, 2020

“The Boy Jesus ”
Lesson 2 of Unit

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b
Luke 2:39-52

Intro

Only Luke’s Gospel includes the story in today’s text. But this story follows long accounts of the births of both Jesus and John the Baptist. Both births and both men were crucial parts of God’s plan for humanity, and their ministries are also linked by this similarity of mission and purpose.

But...

The two men aren’t the same or equal. Through all the gospels, it’s obvious that Jesus is greater than everyone else. He has both the nature of God and the authority of God in himself. How are we to understand something that is different in very fundamental ways from every other thing? That’s the goal of today’s Scripture passages.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b

1. What might vs. 3:1 be telling us about the actions and activities of our lives, even the emotions that go along with those actions?

2. From vs. 7b, when are the times we should be silent? When should we speak? For personal reflections, which aspect to you need most to work on: recognizing when to keep silent or recognizing when to speak? Spend some time developing at least the beginning of a plan to work on that (baby steps are good!)

Read Luke 2:39-52

1. In 2:39-42, what aspects of life seem to be part of a pattern or schedule? Why would/are those things important in raising a child?

2. What is significant about noting that Jesus was 12 years old in vs. 42? What might that age signify about a boy in Jesus' day? (Note: the Jewish bar mitzvah (meaning "one who is responsible for performing the commandments) for boys occurs at age 13).

3. Note on vs. 43: Celebrating the Passover involves the actual Passover feast, eaten in the evening, and then 7 days of additional celebrations. The traveling party would have been large, maybe in the thousands. If they traveled this way each year, it is likely that Jesus wasn't always right next to his parents when traveling, but would connect with them at the end of each day.

4. In vs. 44-45, what actions do Mary and Joseph take to find Jesus? How would you feel if you could not find your child, even a 12-year old?

5. Why did it take them three days to find him? (Use whatever resources you want to find some answers to this.) What kinds of questions have you envisioned Jesus asked the teachers?

6. What does vs. 47 tell us about Jesus' interaction with the teachers? What does that information tell us about Jesus? (Remember, he's been doing this for at least 2 days previous to this event, and he's discussing the *meaning* of the Scriptures)

7. From Mary's question in vs. 48, what amazes her more about Jesus' actions? From a theological standpoint, what *should* have amazed her but doesn't? (Does that make you smile because you might have done the same thing? It did for me!)

8. In vs. 49, Jesus responds to Mary's questions from vs. 48. What seems to be the basis for the questions Jesus asks Mary? What do those questions tell us about who Jesus sees Himself to be?

9. Mary and Joseph both heard the angelic prophesy about Jesus before His birth; why then do they not understand what Jesus is saying to them in vs. 50? How might Jesus' age and Mary and Joseph's daily life with Him contribute to a lack of understanding? How might this incident connect to later events when people don't understand what Jesus says or does?

10. In light of the incident in vs. 43-50, what does it mean in vs. 51 that Jesus was "obedient" to Mary and Joseph?

11. Why was it essential for Mary (and essential for us too) to ponder the significance of what we see and hear, both in our general lives and as applies to our faith?

12. How are vs. 52 and vs. 40 connected / related? What are they telling us about Jesus' uniqueness?

Application: Ecclesiastes refers to there being a time for everything—there are cycles and order to the world we live in. But Jesus, sent from God, turns many systems over or around. There is man's way, and then there is God's way. Jesus spoke frequently of the need to not just do things as custom, but to follow God's desires from Scripture; from the heart and not from habit.

We have been called into fellowship with God through Christ's death, and need to have both the routines of regular Bible reading and prayer and fellowship as well as to do what God wills for us—which may at times ask us to do the unexpected.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for sending Jesus, who though He lived on Earth as a human, was fully God and uniquely different from us. Help us to continue to practice good spiritual habits while being ready to do or say the unexpected as You guide and lead us. In Jesus' name, Amen.