

## JESUS: THE REAL CHILD PRODIGY

(Luke 2:39-52)

...History records for us a number of amazing children whom might be called "child prodigies." "Early in the 1700's Jean Louis Cardiac, known as the "wonder child," recited the alphabet at 3 months. By the age of four he read Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and translated Latin into English and French." (MacArthur)

...The most famous prodigy of that time was Wolfgang Mozart, who began playing the keyboard by ear at the age of three. By the time he was six, he began composing his own pieces, and at eight wrote his first symphony.

...These children may have had unusual abilities, yet they all pale into insignificance compared to one 12 year old boy named Jesus. For only one child was God incarnate. Dr. Luke presents the record of Jesus first recorded words.

### THREE SNAPSHOTS OF JESUS' EARLY YEARS CAUSING US TO

**MARVEL AT GOD'S INCARNATE SON.** Jesus spent 30 years preparing for His great work.

#### I. The Infant Years Of Jesus Show Us A Child Growing In Every Way. (v.39)

...Jesus did not just appear to be human, He was human in every way, apart from sin. He grew!

A. In time His godly parents moved back to their hometown of Nazareth. Luke does not mention...

B. Luke then summarizes Jesus' childhood by compressing 12 years into one verse. (v.40)

1. He grew physically. "He grew and became strong."

...Like any infant and child He went through the normal physical development.

...Imagine His parents marking His growth in height on the kitchen door...

...He cried, crawled, learn to walk, and even became a teenager.

2. He grew spiritually. "He was filled with wisdom." "God's favor was upon Him."

...He was growing intellectually, unimpaired and unhindered by a sin nature.

...He submitted to learning the various laws He had created. Jesus was taught things He did not know. He observed, learned, remembered, and applied. (wisdom)

...His intellect advanced to its full capacity. He was never lazy. He achieved "the maximum potential of the human mind." He was the real prodigy.

#### What Do We Learn From This?

1. Jesus understands what it is like to go through all the growing pains of life. Be encouraged.

2. What humility that our Creator should go to such lowly depths to save us. Wow!

#### II. The "Missing 12 Year Old Boy" Narrative Teaches Us Much About Him.(40-51)

...This is the only event of Jesus' life that Luke tells of during His first 30 years. It is important.

A. "Of all the things that happened to Jesus during His boyhood years, this one event most clearly declared His destiny." (Ryken) Going to Jerusalem for the Passover was an annual event for...

1. At this time, Jerusalem was crammed with hundreds of thousand people and sheep.

2. Jesus was 12 years old and preparing for His Bar-mitzvah, when 13 years old.

...He would then be considered a man, a "son of the commandment."

B. After the 8 days in Jerusalem, hordes of Galileans would caravan walking the 80 miles home.

1. After one day of traveling, the son that never gave them a problem was "lost." (v.45)

2. Both Mary and Joseph make the journey back, and found Jesus the 3<sup>rd</sup> day... (v.48)

...He was in the Temple, learning, by listening to the Rabbis and asking questions.

C. Mary utters a mild complaint to Jesus, "why have you...", His 1<sup>st</sup> recorded words tell us He knew who He was & what His mission in life would be. "Didn't you know... to be in my Father's house?"

...This was the first time anyone dared to refer to God as "My Father." A special relationship...

...In obedience to His parents, He went with them to Nazareth. The curtain falls on His child...

#### What Do We Learn From This?

1. Your relationship to the Lord is the priority relationship in your life. Jesus signaled this to...

2. We are to be obedient to God's authority figures in life. To parents, boss, pastor, gov't, etc.

#### III. Jesus' Adult Years In Nazareth Reveal The Need For Preparation. (v.52)

...Jesus spent 10 times longer in preparing for His public ministry than the ministry itself!

A. During these "hidden years," "He grew in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men."

B. He worked with His hands as a carpenter, doing construction...building homes, yokes, etc.

### **What Do We Learn From This?**

1. Jesus exemplified physical work. He is the working-man's friend. His standard was perfection.
2. You may feel your life and its work is also hidden, be encouraged for God knows all about it.