

Jesus in Jerusalem at Twelve

Luke 2:39-47 and Isaiah 53

February 28, 2021

Building relationships that lead to Gospel Transformation:

How:

- We will be a rejoicing people.
- We will be an engaging people.
- We will be a discipling people.
- We will be an encouraging people.

This week: Jesus as a child. After this passage today we don't have much history from age 12 to age 30 for Jesus. Luke 2:52 gives us our best idea of Jesus' life before age 30.

"After the incident in the temple, Luke says, 'Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man' (Luke 2:52). If at this point in Jesus' human experience He knew everything, He would not need to 'grow in wisdom.' We emphasize that this was Jesus' *human* experience. Jesus never ceased being God, but in some matters He veiled His divinity in accordance with the Father's will. Thus, the Son subjected Himself to physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual growth. The Son of God voluntarily put Himself in the position of needing to assimilate knowledge as a man. When did Jesus know that He was God? From the heavenly perspective, the Son knew from eternity past who He was and what His earthly work was to be. From the earthly perspective, the incarnate Jesus came to that realization at some point early in life. Just when that point was, we cannot know for sure".¹

"That he improved, and came on, to admiration (v. 52): *He increased in wisdom and stature*. In the perfections of his divine nature there could be no increase; but this is meant of his human nature, his body increased in *stature* and bulk, he grew in the growing age; and his soul increased in *wisdom*, and in all the endowments of a human soul. Though the Eternal Word was united to the human soul from his conception, yet the divinity that dwelt in him manifested itself to his humanity by degrees, *ad modum recipientis—in proportion to his capacity*; as the faculties of his human soul grew more and more capable, the gifts it received from the divine nature were more and more communicated. And he increased in *favour with God and man*, that is, in all those graces that rendered him acceptable to God and man. Herein Christ accommodated himself to his estate of humiliation, that, as he condescended to be an infant, a child, a youth, so the image of God shone brighter in him, when he grew up to be a youth, than it did, or could, while he was an *infant* and a *child*. Note, Young people, as they grow in."²

Jesus submitted Himself to God and His will. What can we learn and glean from Luke 2:52?

We are to grow in wisdom.

Wisdom has been called "skill in Godly living."

The Greek word is *Sophia* which means, "skill and or wisdom."

Usage – insight/skill (human or divine) intelligence.

Knowledge and Wisdom are not the same. Wisdom is the ability to discern or judge what is true, right or lasting. Knowledge is information gained through experience, reasoning or acquaintance. Knowledge can be had without wisdom but not the other way around. You can have knowledge without wisdom. "Knowledge is knowing how to use a gun; wisdom is knowing when to use it and when to keep it holstered." God wants us to have knowledge of Him and what He expects of us. In order to obey Him, we have to have knowledge of the commands. But as equally important as having knowledge is having wisdom. Knowing facts about God and the Bible is not all there is to wisdom. Wisdom is a gift from God. James 1:5 states, 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.' God blesses us with wisdom in order for us to glorify Him and use the knowledge we have of Him. Knowledge is what is gathered over time through study of the Scriptures. It can be said that wisdom, in turn, acts properly upon that knowledge. Wisdom is the fitting application

¹ www.gotquestions.org

² Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 1832). Peabody: Hendrickson.

of knowledge. Knowledge understands the light has turned red; wisdom applies the brakes. Knowledge sees the quicksand; wisdom walks around it. Knowledge memorizes the Ten Commandments; wisdom obeys them. Knowledge learns of God; wisdom loves Him.³

Wisdom (true, Godly wisdom) is alien to the natural man. This is one reason the world doesn't understand where Christians often come from.

Remember what Solomon asked for? 1 Kings 3:8-13

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. **Proverbs 1:7**

The only way to have true wisdom is to know God. The only way to walk in wisdom is to know His Word, and the only way to submit to His Wisdom is thru the Holy Spirit.

We are to grow in stature.

Helikia - Maturity/age.

Usage – age, term of life, full age, maturity.

As stated earlier, we don't really have much from Jesus from age 12-30. However, we knew He grew.

As Believers we grow physically but should also in maturity.

We should be able to look back and either see we have grown and gone towards the Lord or further away from Him.

Maturity is almost impossible without other Believers, that is true, Godly maturity and theology.

We are to grow in favor with God and man.

Charis – grace kindness.

Usage – grace, gift or blessing, gratitude, thanks, favor, kindness.

We have all of the love and grace that God has given us, all of it. As we grow we learn to walk and experience that grace and love.

People were drawn to Jesus for various reasons (who He was, what He could do, etc.).

As Believers we shouldn't be repellents but attractors.

There has to be growth and or a desire for growth.

The best definition of the word *favor* is “demonstrated delight.” The favor of God can be described as “tangible evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord.” When we favor someone, we want to be with him or her. We delight in him. We connect with her in a way we don't connect with everyone. We usually favor people who also favor us. In the same way, God shows favor to the ones who delight in, connect with, and give honor to Him. Isaiah 66:2 says, “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.” Second Chronicles 16:9 says, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong on behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” To be “perfect” toward Him means we seek His favor more than we seek the favor of anyone else, even ourselves. Favor is closely related to grace in the Bible. Those who have received Jesus as their Savior are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9). They know the favor of God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6), but those who have saving faith in God's Son are declared righteous (Romans 4:5; Philippians 3:9) and live in God's favor. The most basic answer to “how can I get God's favor” is “believe in the Lord Jesus.”⁴

Prayer Focus:

-Am I growing in the Lord?

-Is there evidence of fruit/growth?

-Would I make my prayer, “Help me grow in wisdom, stature and favor with God and man?”

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/wisdom-knowledge.html>

⁴ Ibid.