

Jesus in the Temple

Martin Ward
martin@gkc.org.uk

Durham Vineyard

Luke 2:40–52

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:40–52

And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

The Story

- Jesus and his family visit the temple in Jerusalem

The Story

- Jesus and his family visit the temple in Jerusalem
- Jesus' parents leave for Nazareth: perhaps in two groups

The Story

- Jesus and his family visit the temple in Jerusalem
- Jesus' parents leave for Nazareth: perhaps in two groups
- End of 1st day: they realise that Jesus is missing

The Story

- Jesus and his family visit the temple in Jerusalem
- Jesus' parents leave for Nazareth: perhaps in two groups
- End of 1st day: they realise that Jesus is missing
- 2nd day: they travel back to Jerusalem

The Story

- Jesus and his family visit the temple in Jerusalem
- Jesus' parents leave for Nazareth: perhaps in two groups
- End of 1st day: they realise that Jesus is missing
- 2nd day: they travel back to Jerusalem
- 3rd day: Jesus is found in the temple ("after three days")

The Story

- Jesus was separated from his parents: so he went to his Father's house (the temple)

The Story

- Jesus was separated from his parents: so he went to his Father's house (the temple)
- His relationship to God, his Father, was the top priority

The Story

- Jesus was separated from his parents: so he went to his Father's house (the temple)
- His relationship to God, his Father, was the top priority
- Jesus was twelve years old: still a child

The Story

- Jesus was separated from his parents: so he went to his Father's house (the temple)
- His relationship to God, his Father, was the top priority
- Jesus was twelve years old: still a child
- Jesus stayed in the temple for three days

The Story

- Jesus was separated from his parents: so he went to his Father's house (the temple)
- His relationship to God, his Father, was the top priority
- Jesus was twelve years old: still a child
- Jesus stayed in the temple for three days
- Jesus: (1) Listened, (2) Asked questions, and (3) Answered their questions

The Story

- Jesus was separated from his parents: so he went to his Father's house (the temple)
- His relationship to God, his Father, was the top priority
- Jesus was twelve years old: still a child
- Jesus stayed in the temple for three days
- Jesus: (1) Listened, (2) Asked questions, and (3) Answered their questions
- We can reconstruct what happened in more detail based on other encounters with Jesus recorded in the Gospels

Two Responses to Jesus

- Wherever Jesus went, people had different responses:

Two Responses to Jesus

- Wherever Jesus went, people had different responses:
- But nobody was bored!

Two Responses to Jesus

- Wherever Jesus went, people had different responses:
- But nobody was bored!
- Some listened eagerly

Two Responses to Jesus

- Wherever Jesus went, people had different responses:
- But nobody was bored!
- Some listened eagerly
- Others were annoyed or offended

Some were offended and left

- Jesus listened to the teachers

Some were offended and left

- Jesus listened to the teachers
- Jesus started asking questions

Some were offended and left

- Jesus listened to the teachers
- Jesus started asking questions
- The teachers gave their usual “pat” answers

Some were offended and left

- Jesus listened to the teachers
- Jesus started asking questions
- The teachers gave their usual “pat” answers
- Jesus asked more probing questions: challenging their preconceived ideas

Some were offended and left

- Jesus listened to the teachers
- Jesus started asking questions
- The teachers gave their usual “pat” answers
- Jesus asked more probing questions: challenging their preconceived ideas
- Some teachers were annoyed and left, “I’m not going to argue with you”, “I’ve told you what I think, and that’s that!”

Some were offended and left

- Jesus listened to the teachers
- Jesus started asking questions
- The teachers gave their usual “pat” answers
- Jesus asked more probing questions: challenging their preconceived ideas
- Some teachers were annoyed and left, “I’m not going to argue with you”, “I’ve told you what I think, and that’s that!”
- They missed out on what happened next!

Others stopped to listen

- Other teachers believed that **Truth is where you find it** (Not: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Jn 1:46, or “no prophet arises from Galilee” Jn 7:52, or “as for this man, we do not know where he comes from” Jn 9:29)

Others stopped to listen

- Other teachers believed that **Truth is where you find it** (Not: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Jn 1:46, or “no prophet arises from Galilee” Jn 7:52, or “as for this man, we do not know where he comes from” Jn 9:29)
- They were willing to listen and discuss theology with anyone: even a child from a poor family who had a country accent

Others stopped to listen

- Other teachers believed that **Truth is where you find it** (Not: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Jn 1:46, or “no prophet arises from Galilee” Jn 7:52, or “as for this man, we do not know where he comes from” Jn 9:29)
- They were willing to listen and discuss theology with anyone: even a child from a poor family who had a country accent
- They were rewarded with his amazing answers. (Imagine the privilege of taking part in a three day seminar with Jesus!)
 - Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (Jn 1:17)
 - “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (Jn 14:6)
 - “Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice” (Jn 18:37)
 - The truth is in Jesus (Eph 4:21)

What about us?

- Do we put our relationship with God the Father first?

What about us?

- Do we put our relationship with God the Father first?
- Are we willing to encounter truth wherever we find it?

What about us?

- Do we put our relationship with God the Father first?
- Are we willing to encounter truth wherever we find it?
- Are we willing to allow Jesus to challenge our preconceived ideas, and reveal to us the truth?