

Luke 2:40-52 ESV

Wise Men Still Seek Him!

Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, January 4 at 7 PM

Second Sunday after Christmas – 2016

Introduction: Dear friends in Jesus Christ: There is *worldly wisdom* and there is *godly wisdom*.

- The world might say to us, “Life is short, so ♦put yourself first, ♦get rich quick, and ♦enjoy life!”
- God might say to us, “Your existence is eternal – *here on earth and somewhere else forever and ever*, so ♦put me first, ♦be content with what you have, and ♦honor me with your life!”

So **who has our ear** – *the world or God*? The one to whom we are listening is the path we will follow.

- The worldly path seems right *because* ♦most people are on it and ♦the pleasures are immediate; furthermore, it’s a good fit with our old nature.
- The godly path can seem *lonely and difficult*; however, we are encouraged to *get on it and remain on it* because of ♦the present blessings of peace and joy **and** ♦the countless eternal blessings in God’s presence!

In today’s text, *from the end of Luke chapter 2*, we will focus on the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus—*when He was 12 years old*. Let’s learn from them and apply God’s Word to our daily Christian lives.

1. **Jesus Was Growing Up:** Luke summarized Jesus’ first 12 years with these words: ⁴⁰ **And the child grew and became strong, [being] filled with wisdom. And the**

favor [the grace] **of God was upon him.** // So things are moving very quickly; *less than two weeks ago we celebrated Jesus' birth*, but now **✦**He has been circumcised and named (when He was eight days old), **✦**He was presented at the temple (when He was 40 days old), **✦**He was visited by the wise men (when He was in Bethlehem), **✦**He was quickly taken to Egypt (to escape Herod's soldiers), and **✦**He settled in Nazareth with Joseph and Mary. From His conception to His present age, *Jesus has been living without sin in our place!*

2. **Jesus' Parents Proceeded with Wisdom:** ⁴¹ **Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.** // Why was that wise? Because the LORD had *commanded* it (Deut. 16:16),¹ so, *being faithful OT believers*, they did it. The Bible says that the “**fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments**” (Psalm 111:10 NAS). Let us also be wise *by understanding and living God's Word!*
3. **Jesus' Parents May Have Been *Doing* without Much Thinking:** ⁴² **And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to [the] custom** [*ἔθος – “law” (used for Jewish laws in the LXX) TDNT, one volume, 202;*] **[of the feast].** ⁴³ **And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. [And] His parents did not know it,** ⁴⁴ **but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but**

¹ The feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread occurred back-to-back, with one flowing into the other; it's almost as if they are one, *even though they are two*. The LORD said to Moses: ⁵ “The LORD's Passover begins at twilight on the **fourteenth day** of the first month. ⁶ On the **fifteenth day** of that month the LORD's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins” (Lev 23:5-6 NIV).

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. // When I was in Burkina Faso (West Africa), it was common to see children without their parents – *because everyone watched out for each other!*

- a. Joseph and Mary were following the law: “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God...” (Deut. 16:16 ESV). So their attendance at the feast may have been a custom, *but it was also a law*; remember, Jesus came to perfectly fulfill the law for everyone (Matt. 5:17). Joseph and Mary followed the law – *as faithful OT believers*, but were they thinking about the purpose of the Passover Feast and who Jesus is – *the Ultimate Passover Lamb?*
- b. What about you and me, can we go through the *right motions* **without** the *right thinking*? Yes, so the Lord calls us to meditate on His Word; then, **to encourage us**, He promises great blessings to those who do so (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3)!

4. **Jesus Was Learning:**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 [insight] and his answers.** // Did you notice how Jesus was learning: He was listening, thinking about what was said, and asking questions. You are also invited to **listen** and **ask** – *now and during our classes!*
5. **A Wake-Up Event for Jesus’ Parents:**⁴⁸ **And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his**

mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, [for three days] your father and I have been searching for you in great distress [*pain, agony, anxiety*].” ⁴⁹ And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must [*δεῖ*] be in my Father’s house [of the – affairs – of my Father]?” ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. // Jesus was at the age to be trained in observing the festivals; such training took place in secondary schools – *the best of which was located in Jerusalem*. That seems to be the place where Jesus’ was found. *That reality must have flooded their minds with the prophecies that had been spoken about Him!*

6. **Moving Forward with Wisdom:** ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up [*carefully kept*] all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature [*maturity, age*] and in favor with God and ~~men~~ [men] [*thus people*]. // **Mary treasured Jesus, so let us be wise and do the same!** **Jesus increased in every good way, so let us be wise and do the same!**

Conclusion: And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

Disciple Training

Important Teaching to Remember: God’s ways are always best!

Important Actions to Practice:

1. Listen to God’s Word and ask questions!
2. Think about and Live God’s Word!

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