

# Want to Be Like Jesus?

Saturday, 1/4 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/5 at 9:00

Second Sunday after Christmas – 2020

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Do YOU want to be like Jesus? *I hope so!* In some ways, being like Jesus is impossible; for example, we CANNOT become the Son of God; however, we CAN be like Him by ☞ spending time in the Bible, ☞ attending Bible class, ☞ asking Bible questions, and ☞ memorizing important Bible passages!

In today's sermon, *based on Luke chapter 2*, let's take a glimpse of Jesus' life when He was 12 years old; then, *near the end*, we will come back to the importance of us becoming like Jesus in our use of God's Word.

## 1. **From Infancy to 12 Years Old:**

- a. Connection to last week's text: **Last week** we were in [Matthew chapter 2](#), and the text ended with these words: "And [Jesus] went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene" (23). **Today**, in [Luke chapter 2](#), the text begins with these words: "**And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him**" (40). // Those words give us a nice summary of Jesus' life – *from when He returned to Nazareth as an infant until the time He was 12 years old*. Physically, He grew in size and strength – *like any other growing boy*. He was also filled with wisdom, *which means He was given much insight or understanding!*

- b. Son of God versus Son of Man: Thinking about Jesus, we might ask this question: Since He is the Son of God: Why does He have to learn, doesn't He automatically know everything already? To answer, let's keep in mind that Jesus is "true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary" (Ap. Cr., Se. Ar., Luther's Explanation). As true God He knows everything, *but as true man He learned!* How are you currently learning from the Bible?

## 2. **Jesus Seemed to be Lost:**

- a. The Passover: <sup>41</sup> **Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.** <sup>42</sup> **And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.** // The Passover, as recorded in *Exodus chapter 12*, is when the LORD passed over the homes that had the prescribed lamb's blood on the door frames, *so He passed over and did not destroy!* Then the LORD commanded that each year the Israelites remember that day with a feast, *thus the Passover Feast*; also, every lamb pointed ahead to Jesus—the Lamb of God, *who eventually took away the sin of the world!*
- b. Lost: <sup>43</sup> **And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.** **His parents did not know it,** <sup>44</sup> **but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,** <sup>45</sup> **and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.** // The journey from Jerusalem back to Nazareth was about 90 miles and took about four days. As families and friends traveled together, *it was easy for Joseph and Mary to*

*presume Jesus was somewhere among them. So they were not bad parents.*

3. **Jesus Attended Bible Class:** <sup>46</sup> **After three days they [Joseph and Mary] found him [Jesus] in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.** <sup>47</sup> **And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.** // Some key points:
- Jesus listened to them:** About 20 years later Jesus would say, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice” (Mt. 23:2-3 ESV). So, at 12 years old, *the Son of Man listened in order to learn the Scriptures!*
  - Jesus asked questions:** As the Son of Man, He heard and thought about what He heard; then *He asked questions to clarify His understanding!*
4. **Jesus Brought His Parents Up to Speed:** <sup>48</sup> **And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.”** <sup>49</sup> **And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”** <sup>50</sup> **And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.** // Remember the amazing things surrounding Jesus’ birth: ♦ Elizabeth becoming pregnant with John when she was past the childbearing years; ♦ an angel appearing to Mary, and then to Joseph; ♦ the virgin birth; ♦ the angel announcement to the shepherds; ♦ the shepherds, and then the wise men visiting Jesus; and ♦ the angel-dreams of Joseph to flee and return? But now, consider this: Maybe after all of those things, Jesus grew

up sinless – yes, but also normal – *no miracles*. So maybe Joseph and Mary stopped thinking about Jesus being the Promised Messiah – *until this particular incident!*

5. **Jesus from 12 Years Old Until His Ministry Began:** <sup>51</sup> **And he went down with them** [*His parents – Joseph, His legal father, and Mary, His mother, to a lower elevation*] **and came to Nazareth and was submissive** [*obedient*] **to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.** <sup>52</sup> **And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.** // It seems as if this incident when Jesus was 12 years old got Mary thinking again about **who He really is** and **His mission to redeem the world!** Then, from 12 years old, Jesus kept increasing in His ✓ understanding, ✓ physical size, and ✓ favor with God and people!

6. **Our Use of God’s Word:** Want to be like Jesus? I hope you said, “Yes!” Here is some advice for all of us:
- Daily devotion: Read the Bible, think, and pray!
  - Weekly Bible Class: Attend Th – 10, Sa – 3, Su – 10:30.
  - Faithful application: As the Spirit shows us the meaning, *let us trust in Him for the power to do it!*
  - Friendly sharing: As we learn things that are important to us, *let us kindly share those things with others!*

**This Week’s Challenge:** *Start attending a Bible Class; we have three options each week at Bethlehem!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, as You learned, lived, and died for us, *so move us to learn, live, and share with others for You!*

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