

## §13: THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:41–52

### Jesus Goes With Parents to Passover in Jerusalem

2:41–42

41 And His parents were going up each year to Jerusalem, to the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when He became twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Feast.

### Jesus Stays Behind in Jerusalem

2:43–44

43 And after spending the full number of days [lit. after completing the days], as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, and His parents did not know;

44 but supposing Him to be in the caravan, they went a day's journey, and they were looking for Him among the relatives and the acquaintances;

45 and not finding Him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for Him.

### Jesus in the Temple

2:46–50

46 And it came about that after three days, they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all those listening to Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

48 And when they saw Him, they were astounded; and His mother said to Him:

Child, why did you act this way to us [or, why did you behave toward us in such a way]?

Behold, your father and I were anxiously looking for you [lit. feeling pain, were looking for you].

49 And He said to them: Why is it that you were looking for Me?

Did you not know that I had to be in the things of My Father?

50 And they did not understand the statement which he had spoken to them.

### Jesus Returns With Parents

2:51

51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he was subjecting Himself to them.

And His mother was keeping all these things in her heart.

### Jesus' Further Childhood

2:52

52 And Jesus was advancing [or, making progress]

in wisdom and in age [or, bodily stature] and in favor with God and men.

## Notes

1. **Caravan (Lk. 2:43).** People from neighboring villages would often travel together to the feasts in Jerusalem in large groups.
2. Some have wondered why so little is said about the early period of Jesus' life. As early as the 2nd century A.D. stories began to circulate about the boyhood of Jesus to fill in what was felt to be a "gap" in the inspired accounts. One famous work which purports to relate other incidents early in Jesus' life is the gnostic "Infancy Narratives of Thomas" (different from the "Gospel of Thomas"), written probably during the 2nd century in Syria. It records miracles that Jesus supposedly performed as a young child.