

Cradle to Grave – Luke 2:39-52

Welcome – good morning

Turn with me to Luke ch. 2 – we are on this journey that is going to take us from the cradle to the cross through Luke

We don't really know a lot about Jesus' early life as a child....we know that he was born in Bethlehem, presented in the temple

Some time after that Herod the Great as the ruling emperor has all of the babies 2 and under slaughtered....

Herod by all accounts would be diagnosed today as having a severe mental health problem....(hysteria)

And b/c of the threat from Herod, Jesus and his family flee to Egypt before returning to Nazareth

Luke ends his investigation of the early life of Christ with this amazing account of a young Jesus in the temple...

Let's read together Luke 2:39-52

As a parent I have always tried to push my children in the activities they enjoy being involved in....

As any parent does.....you always struggle with how much to push, and when to pull back....

But every now and then I come across a video on the internet that makes me feel like a complete failure as a parent

As I was perusing the internet not too long ago, I found this video clip where I thought.....wow.....I've failed my kids...

It's a video of a young piano prodigy named William Zhang....and I thought I would share this video with you in case any of you want to feel like I do sometimes....

As I play this video for you this morning, I want you to remember.....this kid is SIX years old.....not 26.....6

Go ahead and play this video....

I am always perplexed by child prodigies.....no matter what they are doing...one of my favorite TV shows growing up was Doogie Howser M.D.

He was my age, and was a doctor.....I remember making a C in geometry being proud of myself.....

The story we have here this morning is really about a child prodigy.....probably not surprise here, as....after all....son of God....

But the point of this story (why this, nothing else from childhood.....Luke includes for a significant reason).

As we do so it is to make much of Jesus, the God man....so let's make much of him.....

Let's start with his family..... **v.40** again, headed to Jerusalem...as they did every year

The first thing we see here is the necessity of regularly planning to worship

We live in a time where many other things are more important to us than worship.....

Imagine if you had to plan for months to attend worship, and you had to take at least 3 weeks off of work....

What we see from Jesus' family is an incredible sacrifice to worship.....but notice, it was their custom.....they did it every year.....(several times)

We need to make plans to worship.....regularly.....

What needs to change in your life in order for worship to become your habit.....

Let me encourage you to do something that will change your life.....start planning on attending church every Sunday..

Plan for it like you would something else you are doing that is special....(if you were going hunting)

Prepare through the week by praying for God to prepare, prepare by reading.....

Saturday night, spend some time in prayer readying your mind.....lay out your clothes, prepare your family.....

Make attending church your regular habit, make preparing for it your practice.....

Can I promise you, there is a great reward in doing so.....the fellowship with other believers.....

This story begins to turn though in v. 43.....and its important that we not overdo the application here.....because Luke is making only one point in this part....and it's the reason it is included

The point concerns the identity and position of Christ in the Godhead

**v. 43** – when the feast was over, Luke lets us know that the family heads back, but Jesus stays in Jerusalem.....

Jesus stays behind intentionally.....

What we are going to find here is that Jesus is intentionally looking to be about the Lords business....

Jesus was not being disobedient.....rather, he was being about his business with his father.....

When we hear that Jesus was fully God and fully man, there are some implications we need to understand....

While he was fully God, being fully man meant that Jesus had to learn things the same way the rest of us do....

He would have had to work to memorize the Torah, just like all the other 12 year olds....

He would have suffered the hunger pangs of fasting

And he would have learned the things of God in a fashion similar to others.....

But what we find here, is that Jesus displays his full godliness when he is in the temple.....he shows that he is a prodigy that made others marvel....

When Jesus' parents realize he is not in their traveling group....they return to Jerusalem to find him.....lets look at where they find him...

**v.46** – after 3 days – upset after 10 mins.....they find him in the temple.....and sitting.....asking questions (NOT what does it mean to me)

the location of where Jesus was sitting is obvious to a 1<sup>st</sup> century reader, but less so to us....

Jesus is in the part of the temple where all of the doctors of the law would have lived, and where they would have gathered to debate.....(hold on to that word debate).....

Not only was he among the most experienced doctors of the law.....but Luke is careful to mention he is sitting amongst them.....

Again, not a big deal to us.....but to a 1<sup>st</sup> century reader this would have been astounding.....

The custom of the day was that the doctors of the law, the teachers.....would sit while they debated and taught....we are accustomed to our teachers standing before the students.....

It was the other way around.....the doctors would sit, the learners stand....

The fact that LUKE makes note that Jesus was sitting and asking (debating).....tells us that his knowledge and skill with scripture was on par with the doctors of the law...

Finishing up, Jesus says something that is applicable for all of us....

In the midst of all that was going on, his parents in panic mode....

v.49.....I MUST.....be in my fathers house....(John 10:30, I and my father are one)

Here is where we make much about Jesus.....he is keenly aware at 12 years old.....that he is the Son of God

The entirety of the bible points us to this....as SB we get accused of being too focused on the bible....

Can I assure you this morning, the reason we are – and we need to be – it fulfills our ever need, it tells us all we need for salvation....