



12/30/25

Won't it be cool if we get to have movie nights in heaven? Maybe they won't be nights... movie days? I'd love to see movies of Jesus' childhood. And can you imagine what the parties will be like? I bet they'll be out of this world! Hahaha. I so look forward to finding out!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 2:39-52

We know very little of what happened to Jesus while He was growing up. From the age of around 2 until He was 12, all we know is that He "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him." That's pretty amazing in itself. I have a 5 year old grandson and two 3 year old grandsons (plus my 2 granddaughters). I see so many wonderful qualities in them... but they're still cute little sinners whose selfishness sometimes breaks through. That's to be expected. They need to be "brought up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Jesus never needed that. He learned but He never sinned as He learned. He was wise and strong. I imagine He was very calm and encouraging. I wonder if His wisdom continued to shock Joseph and Mary, especially when they had some cute little sinners of their own. Imagine having Jesus as your big brother. Well, I kinda do. He's MY big brother through His sacrifice.

What happened when Jesus was 12? Is it significant that He was 12? For all the years He was growing up, His parents took Him to Jerusalem at the Feast of the Passover. This is such a big deal! It was fulfilling the law, but even more than that was its significance.

The Feast of Passover was when the Israelites celebrated being led out of slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh wouldn't let them go and God sent 10 plagues to nudge him to acquiesce. The night before the Israelites left was the 10th plague. They were to put lamb's blood on their doorposts so that when the Holy Spirit passed over that night, their firstborn sons and firstborn of their livestock would be saved from death. But the Egyptians' firstborn sons and livestock would not.

This is the look back. The look forward is that Jesus was crucified on Passover. He IS the lamb that was slain. His blood was poured out for us. And anyone who receives Jesus as their Savior is saved by His blood. The Holy Spirit not only passes over us so that we never taste the second death, eternal separation from God, but He also seals us so that no one can take away our salvation.

The Feast of Passover was so significant the year that Jesus was 12. Moody Church explains, "It was the rule in Israel, when a child reached the age of twelve, to bring him to the temple and there he went through certain ceremonies something like that of confirmation in some of our churches. From that time on he was recognized as the son of the law. A child was not supposed to be on his own responsibility until he reached the age of twelve. His parents were responsible for him until that time, but when he became twelve years of age, he accepted his own responsibility, and it was now put up to him that he was to obey God and keep His Law and seek His favor. So our Lord Jesus at twelve years of age took His place as the son of the law. He was a true Israelite and He came to fulfill everything in the law of Moses according to the will of God." Jesus had come of age.

After the feast ended, everyone headed home... except for Jesus. He stayed behind and His parents didn't realize it until they had traveled for about a day. They went searching for Him among the caravan of relatives they were traveling with, and He wasn't there. I can only imagine how awful that must have been for them. They headed back to Jerusalem and searched for Jesus for 3 DAYS!

I have been to Jerusalem. It's not that big. Where were they looking??? I think the Lord let them search without finding Him for 3 days to symbolize 3 days in the grave 21 years later when He became the Passover Lamb. His family was separated from Him, and then they were restored. This is the eternal hope I have in Jesus.

After the 3 days, they finally found Jesus in the temple. He was "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions." He was calm, respectful, and wise beyond His years. Everyone was amazed by the depth of questions He asked, and by how He answered their questions. Vs. 40 says He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was upon Him. I'm sure that became obvious to everyone who heard Him. It must have been such a different culture for them. I can't imagine seeing a 12 year old boy and not saying, "Where are your parents?"

Well... Mom and Dad weren't quite so amazed in the same way as the others when they found Jesus. They were kinda freaking out (as I would be). Mary said (I'm guessing she spoke with a lot of fearful tone and volume), "SON, WHY have You done this to US? We have been grieving and searching for You! We could barely breathe!!!"

Interesting... I'm sure they felt that Jesus had done it to THEM, as though He deliberately hurt them. But He didn't. How often do I think that He's deliberately trying to hurt me when He's fulfilling a plan? If Mary and Joseph had been acting in faith rather than fear, they probably would have been more confident going back to Jerusalem. They would have known...

this is the Savior of the world. His Father in heaven is protecting Him. But to be fair, I would have been freaking out, too. Proverbs 24:10 says, "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small." And I say... yep, my strength is often pretty small. And Isaiah 7:9 says, "If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all." Yep, that is often me. But it doesn't have to be. I can keep crying out to God and asking Him to strengthen me in His grace and to help me be firm in faith. He will do this in me one degree of glory to the next. That is the generosity of His love.

Back to the story... Jesus was kind of shocked by His parents' reaction. "Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know that I needed to be in My Father's house?" I don't He was being belligerent... that would be sin. He was truly surprised at their frantic behavior. They didn't understand.

But Jesus went home with them back to Nazareth. And He was submissive to them. He didn't say, "You don't matter anymore. I'm under my Father's care now." He loved them and still treated them with honor and respect. Growing up never means that I don't have to care for my parents. Honoring them is for a lifetime.

As is said in several places, Mary treasured all this in her heart. She loved her Son. She knew the plan. But sometimes the reality of the day distracted her from the reality of His purpose. I pray that I won't let today's distractions keep me from treasuring Jesus. Mary treasured Him until He took her home. May I do the same.

From there, "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." That's all we know until 18 years later when He started His ministry. I hope when we get to heaven we'll have movie nights where we get to see His childhood and how He interacted with His siblings. Were people surprised when He didn't get married? I would also love to see all the earthly stories of chaos from the calm, peaceful, wise heavenly view.

Until then, I pray that I will treasure Jesus every day of my life, and that I'll grow in such security in Him that my fears will never overtake my faith. Lord, we have a ways to go. Thank You for not giving up on me.