

Luke 2:41-52 “Finding your Identity”

From the perspective of angels and from humans Luke has presented testimony about who Jesus is and what his mission is — from Mary and Zechariah, lowly shepherds, and the godly Israelites Simeon and Anna. In this story, the revelation comes directly from Jesus. It contains the first words spoken by him in the gospel. As Jesus becomes **aware of His identity** as “Son” and “God as Father” a cascading series of events unfolds. And we can draw from this story some application for our own lives as we continue to seek to grow in **wisdom and stature and favor**

We begin to see how Jesus’ mindset was framed as the Messiah fully devoted to the Father’s mandates that He was commanded to obey.

Read verses 41-52

I. Vs 41. “All in” Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover

A. A family traveling 90 miles (3 days) to Jerusalem for Passover each year would be devout, resilient, and committed to their faith.

1. **Their pilgrimage reflects their devotion to God and the importance they placed on participating in Community and sacrifice. This was much more than being religious they were “all in”**

B. Adult males were required to make the journey to Jerusalem 3 times per year. (Passover, Pentecost, tabernacles)

1. **Like walking from here to Camp Verde (90 mi) in mileage and elevation (1200 to 2500)**

WE are not “all in” because it proves something to others – we are all in because that’s the ordinary baseline that God uses to do the extraordinary.

Mary’s simple faith, Zachariah faithfully serving in the temple, Simeon waiting...

II. Vs. 42. “Everything is changing” ... He was 12 they went up according to the feasts custom.

Do you remember being 12? It’s the last of the “twens”. Many parents know age 12 as the year that everything changes. As you know each kid grows at different rates. Most of my friends blossomed coming back into the 8th grade, whereas I, not so much. Especially Shawn Foster, a kid that challenged me to a fight on the 1st day of school in 8th grade.

A. 12 was considered the age of discernment -one year prior to becoming “a son of the commandment”

1. **Jesus would have been in total delight soaking in every rite and ritual, with His nimble 12 yr old mind connecting scripture with scripture and then with life in the Spirit.**

2. **These are some of the key days where the Father revealed His identity to Himself and to others.**

B. I’m sure Luke is anticipating this journey motif when Jesus in His adult ministry sets His face toward Jerusalem and completes His earthly mission at Passover and His several days teaching in the temple while people are engaged.

III. Vs.43-44 “The worst feeling ever”...after a day’s journey they discovered Jesus was not with them.

Show the slide of the crowd---

Wrong caravan, hurt along the road, 10’s of thousands of people selling, bartewring, chaos, noise, frantic Every parent wonders, “how do you lose Jesus for 3 days” (Brenda lost Chloe 2x’s mervyns and fry’s) rattled!!

A. We assume that Jesus was missed because of the communal environment, which was like extended family.

B. Losing Jesus reveals the community experience / Mary and Joseph were distracted but not wreckless!

I remember losing my wife Brenda for several hours just about 2 years ago!

IV. Vs. 45-47 ... “Next steps for growth” found him on the “3rd day” in the Temple engaged in learning.

Jesus was engaged in the next right thing for His growth! What is the next right thing for you?

- A. Parents were confronted with a new reality of Jesus devotion to learning
- B. Student teacher relationship has so much power to develop doctrine, beliefs, understanding, wisdom.
 - 1. **One on ones, books, podcasts, small groups, deep personal devotion, friends, learning labs.**
 - 2. **Caution: keep your identity in Christ in nothing else – no idols – loose grip**
- C. We see Jesus insight that was nourished by genuine faith.
 - 1. **Jesus clearly had an ability to learn from others, parents, peers, His heavenly Father**
 - 2. **Ability to interpret scripture at a young age. Jesus was precocious (early developer)**

V. Vs. 48 **Transitions are so hard.. Parents were shocked- why have you done this to us?**

- A. Parents clearly had a natural reaction to the loss and trauma they may have been experiencing.
- B. Parents clearly had expectations that Jesus was to follow. /enforce them with their son Jesus.
- C. They did not find him in the alleys or into mischief, they found Him engaged in interpreting scripture with the assembly of teachers
 - 1. **Them finding Jesus on the third day in the Father’s House is no coincidence either. Luke wants us to understand the entire gospel, not just the final chapter as the story of the resurrection. This resurrection has been true all along.**

VI. Vs. 49-50 “Know yourself” Why are you searching for me? .. I must be in my Father’s house.

Most people are especially leaders obsess over outcomes. It would be far better if we were more concerned with our inputs. What are your inputs? Do you know yourself? Do you spend time asking yourself questions, searching heart

- A. These are the first recorded words of Jesus! Surely, they must have importance and meaning... “My Father”
 - 1. **This moment Jesus introduced a narrative that was never realized before.**
 - 2. **OT referenced God as Father only 14x’s and only as Father of a nation and not an individual.**
- B. Luke is telling us this story because Mary thought it was important
 - 1. **This was like an earthquake event for Mary, like a paradigm shift**
- C. This assumes that His parents should know that Jesus role would begin to manifest as the divine Son of God.
 - 1. **It also reveals how difficult it is to grasp, even to those who walked firsthand.**

1 Co 2:14 “The natural mind perceives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

VII. Vs 51-52 “Finding your identity”...He went with them and was obedient.

- A. Considering these words of Jesus- we see that His revelation of “My Father” manifested in human obedience.
 - 1. **Note – Receiving such a revelation of God as “my Father” was the very foundation of his decision to be obedient to Mary and Joseph.**

1 Jn 3:2 “Beloved, we are God’s children now”

2. *Knowing His own identity gave him the autonomy and power to obey human authority.*

B. Jesus clearly did not enter a stage of rebellion, as it is clear by this statement in the verse.

1. *Mary hid these things in her heart*

2. *Just like our walk now, the Spirit allows events and concepts that are foreign to our understanding and our natural minds. But if we remain open and humble He will unfold and reveal events to us.*

C. What was the cascading result of this revelation of Jesus identity as Son and God as Father?

1. *Vs 52 says He kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*