

Series: Making Much of the Master

## AND THE CHILD GREW

LUKE 2:40-52

Text: Luke 2:40

### **Luke 2:40**

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Introduction:

Only from Luke, who portrayed Christ as the Son of man do we really know anything about the childhood of the Lord.

We find really one verse that summarizes the nine years (3 to 12 years old) and that is our text verse,

### **Luke 2:40**

<sup>40</sup> And the child **grew**, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Note the word “grew.”

As a physician Luke would have naturally concerned himself with such things as physical development and growth.

We read in Proverbs 22:

**Proverbs 22:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

I would like for everyone between the ages of 11 and 13 years old to stand briefly.

Those of you standing you will soon be 12 years of age – you are now 12 years of age – or you have just past the age of 12 years old.

Thank you; you may be seated.

For the most part, the homes of today, especially those who are rearing children, have taken the approach of the humanistic society. Parents have yielded the authority of the home to that of the socially accepted approach.

It seems that most homes are trying to rear their child according to how the latest TV sitcom operates, or to the schedule of activities prepared by the community.

What about the home in which the Lord grew up in?

Have you ever stopped to think about that home?

The Bible gives us a portion of the childhood life of our Saviour for a purpose.

Too often we use Prov. 22:6 as we read a moment ago as a comfort that a child will come back to God after he/she has sown their wild oats, but I believe that if we will use the Bible's principles that we don't even have to go through that time of waywardness or straying.

I would like to share some thoughts today on how not only adults should be conformed to the image of Christ but so should our children.

There are some things that should be settled in our life at an early age.

The reason that this doesn't happen many times is two-fold.

1. Parents are not willing to do that which must be done to insure that these things are settled.

It requires much labor to train up a child in the way in which he should go. It takes effort and hard work to rear children properly. The horse trainers say that there is more to training a horse than just reading it a book on how to win races. I believe that same principle will apply to training up our children.

The second reason that these things are not settled as they should be is:

2. The child is not willing to submit to the parent. Before you are ready to go on to adulthood you must have these issues settled. If you are past twelve and these have not been settled, then you need to settle these today. It matters not whether you are 12, 14, or 20 you cannot go on to the next level until you have these issues settled.

Note the things that the Lord had settled by the age of twelve.

## **1. HE HAD SETTLED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE BY THE AGE OF TWELVE**

The Lord was with His parents every time they attended the House of God. It was a settled issue. As parents, you should have already settled this matter in the heart of your child. By the time a person is twelve years old church should be as much part of their lives as is going to bed at night.

Note some things that are important with this

### **A. Teach Them Why We Go To Church**

- To worship God
- To be a testimony to the lost

When passersby see this parking lot full on Sunday and again on Wednesday, it is a testimony that you, as His children, love Him.

When you neighbors see your car at home at service times it says to them that church is unimportant.

Let me go on to say when our co-workers see us choosing to work instead of choosing to ask to attend church that lets them know where what we consider to be most important.

- To learn the Word of God

If you are here at each service then you will hopefully learn something about God, His Word, and His Son Jesus.

- To learn the will of God

Most men and women who are in full time service to God learned of His calling for their life at church.

They certainly didn't learn it from the shores of the lake or the greens of the golf course.

Note only should we teach them "Why we go to church" but also:

## B. Teach Them When to Go To Church

It should never be an issue on whether or not you and your family are going to be in church.

When the church is meeting then you and your family should be here.

Illustration: A Gym Membership

If you pay for a gym membership you go as often as you can.

You spend as much time as possible, using the facility to the fullest extent as you can.

Maybe the reason is it costs you something.

I have often wondered if we charged people to be a member of the church would more people be more faithful.

There ought not to be a question if you as a family go to church or not. That should be a settled issue.

If you are past twelve and you have not settled this matter of being in the house of God every service, then you need to get it settled.

Side Note:

When did we develop the idea that Sunday morning services are more important than Sunday evening and Wednesday night?

Again let me go back to the example I just used.

Is the pool less important than the work out room or weight room at the gym?

There is no less important service when it comes to church.

Note not only had “He Settled the Matter of the Importance of Church Attendance” but also:

## **2. HE HAD SETTLED THE RESPECT ISSUE BY THE AGE OF TWELVE (VS. 46)**

### ***Luke 2:46***

*<sup>46</sup> And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.*

Pay close attention to the order that we see in this verse.

#### **A. Hearing Them (Listening)**

This is called respect.

Remember who we are talking about here; The Lord of Glory.

The One who created the universe, the One who hung the moon in its place, the One who put the stars in the heavens, who at twelve years of age understood the need of respecting His elders, listened first.

Those who are growing up today would have never made it in the just a few years ago.

One time of talking back to your mother or dad and you would have found yourself seeing stars.

Parents you need to teach your children respect. Teach them to listen.

Illustration: Michael Brown

There is a young man who if he had been taught respect for authority may be alive today.

I hear today these children talking back to their parents. The dad or mom will say, "Now come on and make daddy happy." Or "Mommy doesn't want you to act ugly."

That will not teach respect.

I'll tell you how to do it, In three "easy lessons":



Lesson 1: Make the punishment more severe than the pleasure of the disobedient act.

Lesson 2: Repeat lesson 1

Lesson 3: Repeat lesson 1 and 2

That is what is wrong in the criminal justice system today.

Criminals don't mind going back to jail.

Illustration: Electric Fence

We used to have an electric fence around our place and our cows would go to that fence ONCE and only ONCE and stick their nose to that fence, and they never need a reminder.

They knew that they did not want to play around fences.

And yet some parents act as if their children are not as smart as an "Old Jersey Cow."

I have heard parents say, "They are just hyper-active." No, they are disrespectful.

I have also heard parents say, “They are still in the learning stage.”

Of course they’re in the learning stage. That’s why you must teach them to be respectful.

We must teach our children to listen.

- Listen to their Sunday School teacher
- Listen to the preaching of God’s Word
- Listen to you their parent

Some parents are scared to death to make their children obey. They are afraid of their child. God meant for children to be a blessing, not a threat to society.

**Luke 2:46**

<sup>46</sup> And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Note the Lord listened first and then

B. Asking Them

This is called learning.

I have discovered that often when I listen my question may be answered before I have to ask it.

Teach your children to listen and then ask.

Note not only had “He Settled the Matter of the Importance of Church Attendance” and the Issue of Respect” but also:

### **3. HE HAD SETTLED THE PURPOSE OF LIFE BY THEIR AGE OF TWELVE (VS. 49)**

#### ***Luke 2:49***

*<sup>49</sup> And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

God has a specific purpose for each one of us, children and adults alike.

No one was placed in this earth with no assignment. The Lord knew that He had a purpose in life.

By the time you are twelve you should be giving much thought to what God wants you to do.

We must keep ourselves clean, obedient, listening, and God will give us His purpose in life. We are to be about the Father's business.

Illustration: Some people think that God needs help in finding them a mate.

Leave this matter of marrying the right person up to God. He can bring that person to you.

God does not need our help in preparing them for us. We would say, “Lord, shave a little off here and change a little there.” God knows who we need and they will be led to you in the right time. God will allow your paths to cross.

Note not only had “He Settled the Matter of the Importance of Church Attendance” the Issue of Respect” and “The Purpose of Life” but also:

## **4. HE HAD SETTLED THE AUTHORITY ISSUE BY THE AGE OF TWELVE (VS. 51)**

### ***Luke 2:51***

<sup>51</sup> *And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.*

- He was subject unto them

This speaks of the authority structure in the home

When the Lord emerged from obscurity He had put in thirty years of preparation for just three years of

ministry. He was subject to His parents during that thirty years. He knew the discipline of His home. He laboured as a carpenter in Nazareth. He kept Himself under the authority of His parents until He was thirty years old.

We must remember “Everyone is under the authority of someone.”

The whole problem in America today is that people will not submit to authority.

“You are not going to tell me what to do.”

“I don’t have to do what you say.”

“If an adult speaks, then you as a child should listen, and yield authority.”

I’m not talking about out somewhere on the playground and an adult comes up to your child and attempts to lure them off somewhere. First of all, they shouldn’t be there by themselves.

Close

The result of settling these matters is noted in verse 52.

**Luke 2:52**

<sup>52</sup> *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

Wisdom – That’s Intellect

Stature – That’s Physical Ability

Favor with God – That’s Spiritual Growth

Favor with Man – That’s Social Development

May God help us to be the parents that we should be and the children or teenagers that God desire for us to be.