

“The Child Who Was God”

Luke 2:36-52

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I. Introduction

- A. It has been said that the boyhood of Jesus was like “a walled garden from which we have been given but a single flower.”
 - 1. Of all the gospels, only Luke gives us a glimpse into the secret enclosure
 - 2. It may be that we have only this one flower of the boyhood of Jesus, yet its fragrance is so sweet that it fills our hearts with wonder and praise.

II. The Infant Jesus Meets Anna (Luke 2:36-38)

- A. Her name (v. 36)
 - 1. “Anna” is equivalent to the Hebrew “Hannah,” the name means “Grace”
- B. Who was she? (v. 36)
 - 1. A prophetess
 - 2. The daughter of Phanuel
 - a) “Jacob wrestled with the angel” (Genesis 32:30)
 - 3. Of the tribe of Asser (v. 36)
 - a) Jacob’s eighth son
 - 4. She was of great age (vv. 36-37)
- C. What kind of woman was she?
 - 1. She lived in God’s house (v. 37)
 - 2. She served in God’s house (v. 37)
 - a) How?
 - b) Fasting and prayers night and day
 - c) She lived a devout life
 - d) (Proverbs 31)
 - 3. She had a thankful heart (v. 38)
 - a) Give thanks
 - 4. She spoke to others of Christ (v. 38)
 - 5. She looked for the redeemer (v. 38)
 - a) Anna had been widowed, but she didn’t grow bitter; she grew better

III. The Boyhood of Jesus (Luke 2:39-52)

- A. In Nazareth (vv. 39-40)
 - 1. Fill in the gaps that Luke omits (between verses 38-39)
 - a) The Wise Men (Matthew 2)
 - b) The flight to Egypt (Matthew 2)
 - c) King Herod’s slaughter of the babies (Matthew 2)
 - 2. The first summary statement (v. 40)
 - a) “The child continued to grow” (v. 40)
 - b) “Waxed strong” or “became strong” (v. 40)
 - c) “In spirit” or “filled with wisdom” (v. 40)
 - d) “Grace of God was upon Him”

3. We see His true humanity
 4. He was a sinless, perfect boy
 - a) *“The development of this child was therefore perfect, and this along every line; physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual; for from beginning to end progress was unimpaired and unimpeded by sin whether inherited or acquired.”* – William Hendriksen
- B. In the temple (vv. 41-50)
1. Joseph and Mary went together to worship, and they took Jesus with them.
 - a) Parents, be an example to your children to love God and be in His house
 2. Jesus’ first recorded words (v. 49)
 - a) He called God, “His Father”
 - 1) The first time God is called “Father” to an individual in the Bible
 - 2) Jesus “The Son of God” (His deity)
 - 3) Jesus’ first words “Father,” and last words “Father”
 - 4) The temple was His Father’s house
 3. Jesus expressed an awareness and a compulsion of His divine mission
 - a) “I must” (v. 49)
 - 1) Jesus was growing in self-awareness of who He was
 - 2) His mission “must”
 - a. “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again” (Luke 24:7).
 - b. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14).
 - 3) For Jesus, this “must,” was in complete harmony with His own desire
 - a. A divine “must”
 - 4) Jesus was not understood (v. 50)
- C. In His family
1. The 18 hidden years at Nazareth
 2. Jesus knew He was the Son of God and that God was His Father, yet He was subject to His earthly parents (v. 51)
 - a) Children- obey your father and mother
 3. What was Jesus doing those 18 years?
 - a) He was growing up (v. 52)
 - b) Living in Nazareth
 - c) In subjection to His parents
 - d) Working in the carpenter shop
 - e) Keeping God’s Law
 - f) Waiting on God’s timing

IV. Conclusion

- A. Jesus can understand us
- B. Don’t despise your time of preparation
- C. We must be about the Father’s business
 1. What is your “divine must?”