

12-10-17
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
JESUS A PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR CHILDREN TO FOLLOW

Luke 2:46 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.

Luke 2:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Luke 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Luke 2:51 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.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Jesus came into this world and knows what it is to be like us. The Bible says:

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus knows what it is like to be a child, to have parents.

There is nothing you are going through that Jesus has not gone through Himself.

There is not a lot that we know about Jesus' life as a child, but there are a few Scripture passages that give us a glimpse into some of the things our Lord had to deal with.

One of those times happened when he was about 12 years old.

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

Luke 2:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

Luke 2:43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

Luke 2:44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

Luke 2:45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

Luke 2:46 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.

Luke 2:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Luke 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Luke 2:51 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.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Introduction to the Child Jesus:

In this account of our Lord's pilgrimage to Jerusalem we get a glimpse at Christ in His perfection!

The tradition of the Bar-Mitzpha happened at age 12 as a Jewish boy matured to adulthood, this was the age where he assumed all the privileges of membership into the synagogue.

At age 12 a Jewish boy was expected to be able to work in a trade just like a man!

A SON WAS TO BE TAUGHT TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER AND BE ABOUT THEIR FATHER'S BUSINESS OR TRADE.

In the past the goal of child training was that Children were transformed to adulthood much sooner than we do today.

There was a day when all children had to work to help support the family. It was nothing for children ages 5-12 to be working in farms, and factories, all around the world in the 1800's to 1900's. The reason Sunday Schools were started was because many children were not learning to read or write, so many churches started schools on Sunday to help teach children to learn to read and write. These became known as Sunday Schools. The Bible was the main text book for reading.

In the early days of the history of our nation this tradition of Children growing up quickly was an important part of our history.

When we think of the first presidents of our country, the first ones were:

1. GEROGE WASHINGTON,
2. JOHN ADAMS..
3. THOMAS JEFFERSON..

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were very competitive, in fact, both of them were instrumental in writing the Declaration of Independence. They had different ideas of government, and often fought with each other over their opinions. They both died July 4th 1826, within 5 hours of each other.

John Quincy Adams was the 6th President of the United States and the Son of John Adams the second president of the United States. John Adams took his son John Quincy to Europe with him when he was an ambassador to France. John Adams was the one who was sent to England to pursue terms of peace with England after the war for independence. John Quincy was trained in the business of his father. He did very well at it.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS WAS AN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA WHEN HE WAS 14.

What was his father:

1788 mother sent him to France with his father John Adams.

John's dad, was minister to France, and Quincy Adams accompanies his dad in this service.

Within three years, at age 14 he became so skilled that he received a congressional appointment to a post in the Court of Catherine the great of Russia!

Later he also served as an ambassador to Britain, and France:

Back then it was nothing to accept young people in positions of importance equal to an adult.

Dwight L. Moody went to Chicago to work in shoe factories when he was 15. Sent money back to mom every week!

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was saved when he was 15, started preaching at the age of 16. When he was 16 he started to teach Sunday School and by time he was 19 years old he was Pastoring one of the largest churches in London England.

SO IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST:

In the days of when Christ lived, it was no different, Children were expected to work at early ages. They were apprentices to their parents. Last names often came from a person's trade or occupation. The father's trade or occupation was an important part of a child's life. It was expected in the Jewish tradition that a Child, when he reached the age of 12, would grow into manhood and was expected to become a full member of the Synagogue and also would be able to be able to fully conduct business like an adult.

Today in our culture this is so different. Most children go to school and then some to college to decide what they will do for work and a living. This leads to society and institutions being more important than family. Often children never grow up, never learn to be mature men and women.

Now let us go back to our text.

Jesus goes up to Jerusalem to the feast of the Passover. He is now 12 years old. It was only natural that at age 12 he had a desire to follow in the footsteps of his father. Except his father was not Joseph... His father was God. His Father in Heaven.

***I. JESUS WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR CHILDREN TO FOLLOW.
AT AGE 12 JESUS WANTED TO BE ABOUT HIS HEAVENLY FATHER'S BUSINESS.***

What was the business of God the Father? The temple was the house of God, and God's business is the teaching and preaching and administration things concerning His people. The temple was an important part of that business.

Luke 2:45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

Luke 2:46 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.

Luke 2:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

There he was in the temple with the doctors of the law, hearing them and asking them questions. These were the doctors of the law. These were the religious leaders. These were the theologians of the day.

***II. JESUS STAYING BEHIND IN JERUSALEM WAS NOT WRONG.
WHAT JESUS WAS DOING WAS PERFECT AND RIGHT.***

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Jesus was sinless, and therefore what He was doing was the right thing to do for His age. In the Jewish tradition, a young man when he reached the age of 12 would have been told to be a man, to be responsible, to learn the business of his father and do it.

Jesus, therefore, did exactly what He was told to do.

We are sinners, and many times we are told to do things, but we don't do what were told.

Very rarely do sinners do what they are told to do.

We have almost expected that people don't do what they are supposed to do!

Jesus was not a sinner so when he was told to be about his father's business, everyone was shocked that he actually stayed behind and did just that.

III. *Mary and Joseph Were Sinners And Did not Understand What Jesus Was Doing. Our Parents are not perfect our human authorities are not perfect.*

Luke 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

Mary rebukes Jesus, and actually accuses him of doing them wrong.

Who was wrong?

Why would Jesus be wrong for doing what he was told to do?

Jesus answered them.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Joseph and Mary did not understand what Jesus was saying.

They did not understand what He meant and what His father's business was all about.

IV. *EVEN THOUGH JESUS WAS PERFECT AND HIS PARENTS WERE NOT, STILL JESUS SUBMITTED TO THEM AND WAS SUBJECT UNTO THEM. Jesus showed a perfect example of submissions for children to follow.*

Luke 2:51 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.

Nevertheless, Jesus was subject to his earthly authority, even though that authority was wrong and he was right.

NOW WHICH OF US ARE PERFECT?

Why is it we who are imperfect cannot submit to our human authority?

Now I am going to speak to Children and Adults alike.

The imperfections of your human authority does not give you a license to rebel. If anyone could have rebelled it was Jesus. He was perfect but Joseph and Mary were not perfect. Yet He was Subject Unto Them.

We think that someday when we stand before God we are going to point to all the inconsistencies of our earthly authority and that will excuse our rebellion. IT WILL NOT!

Let's say you see something in Mom and Dad that is not right, does that give you the right to do wrong? NO NO NO.

Let's say Mom and Dad you see something wrong in your human authority. Do you think that is going to give you the right to rebel against what God wants you to do?

Many people abandon God's house because they see inconsistencies.

Many people have stopped serving the Lord because they see faults with others who lead.

HE WAS SUBJECT UNTO THEM. WHO WERE THEY? SINNERS. AND HE WAS SINLESS.

If He who was sinless could be subject to earthly sinners, DO YOU THINK GOD WILL GIVE YOU A PASS?

V. CONCLUSION

Philippians 2

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Let us be like Christ.

This is the only glimpse we get at Jesus who is and was perfect in every way. LET US BE LIKE HIM.

This is the Christ as a Child in the Bible. Even as a child He was perfect and sinless.

Yet consider him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself.

ARE YOU PERFECT?
ARE YOU SINLESS?
ARE YOU ALWAYS RIGHT?

If He who is sinless and perfect was subject and obedience in all things, how much more should we who are sinners do likewise?

INVITATION:

Will you be like Christ? Have you been rebelling against your authorities?

Are you obedient in your home? When Mom and Dad tell you to do something?
Are you rebellious at school?

Are you saved? Maybe you are rebellious because you have never received Christ?

Receive Him and He will send His spirit into your heart to help you be like Christ in this sinful and rebellious world.