

FPFWC Christian Development



Many Faces of Wisdom
July 2020

Summer Quarter

July 11, 2020

Lesson #2 – The Boy Jesus

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Ecclesiastes 3:1,7b; Luke 2:39-52

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

ICE BREAKER -

1. In what way should we strive to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and others?

LESSON BACKGROUNDAs one of the Old Testament books known as wisdom literature, Ecclesiastes explores the accumulated wisdom of its time and place. In so doing, it asks whether life has meaning. Its writer, “the Preacher” (Ecclesiastes 1:1), has long been identified as King Solomon. He alternates between principles of wise living and his own discouraged impression that “all is vanity” (2:17). But in the end he concludes that the purpose of human life is to remember the Creator before our lives slip away from us (12:1). Therefore one must read the entirety of the book to glean the ultimate truth of it.

Of the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke give stories of Jesus' birth, and only Luke includes a story from Jesus' childhood. It comes just after the accounts of the announcement and birth of both John the Baptist and Jesus.

Luke portrays both births as vital parts of God's plan, closely linked to one another as the two men's ministries later would be linked. Even so, Jesus' uniqueness is evident from the beginning (Luke 1:32, 35; 2:11). As His story unfolds, we see that Jesus is greater than all others because He has the nature and authority of God himself (Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:6). In Jesus, God entered the world to rescue His people (John 1:1, 9-14).

How we understand something so unusual, something that is fundamentally different from every other thing, is answered by today's text.

LESSON COMMENTARY

3:1. The wise man not only knows the principles of wisdom, but he also knows when they apply (cf. Pr 26:4-5). Wisdom is thus about proper timing. Qohelet recognizes that the same is true of life under the sun. **Every event** under the sun has its proper **time**, as is seen in the poem that follows.

2:25-39. The performance of these required rituals set up two encounters in the **temple**. The first encounter was with a man named **Simeon** (2:25-35). Simeon was described as **righteous and devout** (2:25) and one to whom the Spirit of God had given a promise that he would live to see **the Lord's Christ** (2:26).

Upon seeing the child he recognized the fulfillment of that promise (2:29) and of the Lord's promise of salvation for **all peoples** (2:31)—both Gentiles and **Your people Israel** (2:32). Simeon had an ominous warning about this child as well—His life would be a challenge to the nation of Israel and would bring sorrow to Mary (2:34-35). The second encounter was with a **prophetess** named **Anna**. She was described as an elderly but devout worshipper. As with Simeon, when she saw the child she recognized that in Him was the fulfillment of the promise for **all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem** (2:38).

G. Boyhood of Jesus (2:40-52)

2:40-52. In this, the only account in the gospels of Jesus' boyhood, Luke described a time when the family visited Jerusalem for Passover (2:41). After the celebration Jesus was not found with the caravan heading back to Nazareth (2:43-44). When Joseph and Mary returned to the city and found Jesus, He was in the temple discussing spiritual matters with the teachers (and amazing them with His understanding 2:46-47). When His parents found Him, His mother chided Him, **Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You**. But His explanation—I **had to be in My Father's house** (2:49)—indicated that He was well aware of His own identity at an early age, and of the identity of His true Father, the Lord God. Other than this instance of "divine precociousness" Luke indicated that Jesus' growth and development were completely normal, except for the **grace** (2:40b) and **favor** (2:52) He enjoyed from God.

LESSON NUGGET – When life is especially difficult, we are prone to see only one side of the situation. Solomon reminds us that God is in control of life and keeps everything balanced.

Sources: Moody Bible Commentary; Wiersbe Bible Commentary; The Word for Today Bible and Standard Sunday School lesson.