

The Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. **And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.**

Meditation:

We have revealed to us in this incident the wonder of Jesus’ growth as a human being. He was only twelve, but still everyone, and the teachers also, were amazed at his understanding. There is no suggestion that Jesus was teaching the teachers, nor indeed that he was showing off. Rather we are given a glimpse of a child wanting to hear all he could of the things of God, and in the environment of question and answer which teaching was engaged in in the culture of the time, Jesus showed his amazing understanding and knowledge of the things of God.

Jesus grew in wisdom like any other child, but his growing wisdom was perfect at every stage, and his behavior was always in line with what was right for a child of his age. The uniqueness and perfection of the childhood and adolescence of Jesus comes out brilliantly. He had to grow in wisdom and stature, but still there was nothing superior or unnatural. People saw a perfect boy, who grew perfectly in every way, but without any sense of being unacceptable.

So we see how the wisdom and purpose of God was carried out perfectly even at this early age, and that at all times in his life Jesus grew and behaved in accordance with his roll of Savior and redeemer. ****What can each of us learn from this? *Do I understand that growing in wisdom and knowing God’s purpose for me***

is fostered by growing in knowledge and understanding of the things of God?

****What can I do to foster my growth in faith? *What can I do to foster this in others?***

**** Sunday May 13 – Liturgical Ministers Ministry***

**** Monday May 14 – Vocations Ministry***

**** Tuesday May 15 – Service Ministry***

**** Wednesday May 16 – Music Ministry***

**** Thursday May 17 – Welcoming Ministry***

**** Friday May 18 – Leadership Ministry***

**** Saturday May 19 – St. Mary & St. John Parishes***