

Second Sunday After Christmas

Luke 2: 40-52

January 4, 2015

My Fellow Redeemed In Christ,

If It Wasn't For Luke We Wouldn't Know Anything About Jesus Christ Between His Birth And The Beginning Of His Ministry At The Age Of Thirty. Only Luke Tells Us The Story About The Twelve Year Old Jesus In The Temple. It's A Fascinating Story Giving Us A Glimpse Into The Life Of A Much Younger Jesus. And It's A Touching Story Showing Jesus As A Twelve Year Old Child Relating To His Parents, Joseph And Mary. How Much Did They Understand About Their Child? We Are Not Told. Certainly They Knew He Was Special...Yes, They Knew That Much But They Didn't Have A Lot Of Details.....But What About Jesus? How Much Did Jesus Know And When Did He Know It? But Whatever Else That We Can Say About Jesus Luke Shows Us That Certainly At The Age Of Twelve.....**"Jesus Knew Who He Was".**

I. There Is No Doubt About It.....This Story Shows Us That Jesus Was A Human Being Just Like Us.....And Yet We See In This Story That He Knew That He Was Also Different ....Something Greater Than A Human Being.

A. Certain Words And Phrases Are Used To Show That He Was Truly Human-Being Like Us As We Are Told That Jesus **"...Grew And Became Strong, Filled With Wisdom...And Increased With Wisdom, And In Stature And In Favor With God And Man" (Vv. 40, 52, Esv).** Yes, Jesus Was Just Like Us Except For One Thing: He Didn't Have Any Sin. The Author Of Hebrews Plainly Says That Jesus Was **"Tempted In Every Way, Just As We Are, And Yet Was Without Sin" (4: 15, Esv).** Paul Says The Same Thing In His Second Letter To The Corinthians: **"God Made Him Who Had No Sin, To Be Sin For Us" (5: 21, Esv).** This Is Very Important....Because, Jesus Couldn't Be Our Savior If He Even Had One Sin.....Remember Adam And Eve Lost Everything Over Just One Sin?....If Jesus Even Had Just One Sin....He Would Need A Savior. Jesus Had To Be A Human Being Just Like Us, Except For Sin So That He Could Take Our Place, Be Our Substitute, Our Representative Before God.... And To Do What We Could Not Do For Ourselves: Save Us From Sin, Death And God's Wrath. This Was All Symbolized In The Old Testament As The People Of Israel Sacrificed Animals. The Person Sacrificing The Animal Knew That They Deserved From God What The Animal Was Receiving: Death. And This Animal Had To Be Free Of All Blemishes Because It Was A Symbol For Jesus Christ Who Had No Sin And Would Take Our Place As The Author Of Hebrews Says, **"...For It Is Impossible For The Blood Of Bulls And Goats To Take Away Sins" (10: 4, Esv).** .....And So When Jesus Came To Be Baptized By John He Said About Jesus, **"Behold The Lamb Of God Who Takes Away The Sin Of The World" (John 1: 29, Esv).** Yes, Jesus Had To Be A Real Human Being Like Us If He So That He Could Take Our Place And Die For Our Sins.

B. But Luke Shows Us That Jesus Is Also More Than A Human-Being. He Is God. Mary, Joseph And Jesus Had Come To Jerusalem To Celebrate The Passover; God's Deliverance Of Israel From Their Slavery In Egypt. In Those Days, People Traveled In Large Numbers With Family And Friends In Order To Be Safe From Highway Bandits. But When They All Left Jerusalem At The End Of The Feast It Seems That Mary And Joseph Assumed That Jesus Was With Other Family Or Friends. And They Became Alarmed When They Realized That He Could Not Be Found. Immediately They Returned To Jerusalem And Searched For Him For Three Days.....Three Days (!) .Can You Imagine Their Anxiety? Can You Imagine Their Relief When They Finally Found Him In The Temple Engaged In Theological Discussions With Rabbis! All Parents Can Understand Why His Mother Said To Him, **"Son, Why Have You Treated Us So? Behold, Your Father And I Have Been Searching For You In Great Distress" (V. 48, Esv).** And In His Answer We See That Jesus Knew Who He Was Even At The Age Of Twelve: **"Why Were You Looking For Me? Did You Not Know That I Must Be In My Father's House?" (V. 49, Esv).** With Just One Sentence Jesus Changes The Whole Situation. Jesus Was Not To Blame. He Has Done Nothing Wrong. Mary And Joseph Should Have Known That He Would Be In The Temple, His Father's House. Both Mary And Joseph Had Been Told By The Angel Gabriel About The Wonder And Uniqueness Of Their Son. And It's Here That We Get Our First Glimpse Of Jesus As The Son Of God And Savior Of The World. He Was In God's Temple...And He Calls God His Father. Here He Reminds His Parents That Joseph, Who Was A Carpenter, Was Not His Father....Joseph Was His Step-Father. Jesus Had No Human Father....He Was Conceived Of The Womb Of The Virgin Mary By The Holy Spirit. And At This Point We Are Reminded That When Jesus Died On The Cross.....It Was Not The Death Of Just A Human Being....But The Death Of God In Human Form. The God/Man Jesus Christ Died For The Sins Of The World. . And This Is Why One Death Could Pay For The Sins Of Billions Of People.

ii. Luke Shows Us That Even At The Age Of Twelve Jesus Was Already Doing The Work Of Our Savior.

A. We See This In His Concern For God's Word. Mary And Joseph Found Him In The Temple Discussing God's Word, Theology, With The Rabbis. In Those Days Theology Was Discussed In A Conversational Style.....By Asking And Answering Questions....Much Like In **Martin Luther's Small Catechism.** That Must Have Been A Bit Humbling For Those Rabbis As We Read, **"And All Who Heard Him Were Amazed At This Understanding And His Answers" (V. 47, Esv).** Twelve Years Old Is The Age Of Our Confirmation Students.....Not Sure Pastor Mankin Or I Would Want Jesus In One Of Our Classes.....And This Would Not Be The Last Time That People Would Be Amazed By Jesus And His Teaching As We Read Later In Luke's Gospel: **"They Were Amazed At His Teaching, Because His Words Had Authority" (4: 32, Esv).** Well, Of Course, He Knows What He Is Talking About....Of Course He Speaks With Authority.....He Is God.....God In Human Form. And This Is Why We Listen To Him. He Speaks The Very Words Of God. We Can Trust Whatever He Says...He Can Do Whatever He Says...And Just As He Went To His Father's House To Discuss

God's Word.....So Likewise We Come To This Place, Messiah, The House Of God, To Hear The Word God.....From Jesus And About Jesus.

B. And Yet There Is Something Else That Is Amazing In Our Text: **"And He Went Down With Them And Came To Nazareth And Was ....Submissive To Them" (V. 51, Esv).** **"And Was Submissive To Them"**. Do You See How Amazing This Is? Jesus Is God, The Creator Of The Universe, In Human Form...The Son Of God Who Calls God **"My Father"** And The Temple In Jerusalem **"My Father's House"**. He Was Joseph And Mary's Creator...He Had Made Them In The Womb Of Their Mothers...He Was Their God... He Was Their Savior. He Would Die For Their Sins On The Cross..... And Yet, We Are Told That He Was **"Submissive To Them"** As The Fourth Commandment Says: **"Honor Your Father And Your Mother"**; Which Martin Luther Explains In His Small Catechism: **"We Should Fear And Love God So That We Do Not Despise Our Parents And Other Authorities, But Honor Them, Serve And Obey Them, Love And Cherish Them"** Even Though Jesus Was Mary And Joseph's God And Savior... Yet As A Twelve Year Old Son He Would Perfectly Keep The Fourth Commandment And Honor Them.. And Even Here He Is Acting As Our Savior....Our Sinful Nature Doesn't Like To Submit To Anyone. And We Have Broken This Fourth Commandment In A Variety Of Ways By Disobeying, Deceiving Or Dishonoring Our Parents And Other Authorities . We Often Forget That In Addition To Dying On The Cross For Our Many Failures To Keep God's Law Jesus Also Took Our Place Under God's Law And To Keep It All Perfectly For Us As Paul Says In His Letter To The Galatians: **"But When The Fullness Of Time Had Come, God Sent Forth His Son, Born Of Woman, Born Under The Law, To Redeem Those Who Were Under The Law, So That We Might Receive Adoption As Sons" (4: 5, 6 Esv)**.....This Means That When We Believe In Jesus God Not Only Forgives Us All Of Our Sins, But He Also Gives Us Credit For Jesus' Perfect Keeping Of God's Law...His Keeping Of The Law Becomes Our Keeping Of The Law...Including The Fourth Commandment **"Honor Your Father And Your Mother"**.. What A Wonderful God We Have.....

Conclusion: Perhaps The Best Way To End This Sermon Is To Do What Mary Did: **"And His Mother Treasured Up All These Things In Her Heart" (V. 51, Esv).** What Did Mary Think? What Did She Know About Her Son? I Have Become Quite Fond Of A More Recent Christmas Hymn With That Very Title: **"Mary Did You Know"**:

**Mary Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Will Some Day Walk On Water? Mary Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Will Save Our Sons And Daughters?**

**Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Has Come To Make You New? This Child That You've Delivered Will Soon Deliver You.**

**Mary Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Will Give Sight To A Blind Man? Mary Did You Know That**

**Your Baby Boy Will Calm A Storm With His Hand? Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Has Walked Where Angels Trod?**

**And When You Kiss Your Little Baby, You Have Kissed The Face Of God.**

**Oh Mary Did You Know The Blind Will See, The Deaf Will Hear, The Dead Will Live Again; The Lamé Will Leap, The Dumb Will Speak, The Praises Of The Lamb?**

**Mary Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Is Lord Of All Creation? Mary Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Would One Day Rule The Nations? Did You Know That Your Baby Boy Is Heaven's Perfect Lamb? This Sleeping Child You're Holding Is The Great I Am? \* Written By Mark Lowry And Buddy Greene**

Yes, Jesus Is Wonderful And Amazing. What He Says. And What He Does. And Like With Mary Long Ago... Truly Our Heart Is The Appropriate Place To Keep These Things.....And To Treasure Them. Amen.

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