

## Luke Lesson 02

### Luke Chapter 2

#### **Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies**

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 121:1 A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. Psa 121:2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

Introduction: We continue our study of the book of Luke as we cover the first half of Chapter 2. In last week's lesson, we studied about the birth of John the Baptist, and how that after Zacharias wrote down that the baby's name was to be John, that his voice came back. He then began to magnify the Lord and prophesied about what was to happen to the nation of Israel in regards to John and the birth of Jesus Christ. The people feared due to the miracle surrounding these births and how that Zacharias had recovered his voice. This week we begin with the record of Christ's birth. The detail that Luke gives makes it one of the better records of Jesus' birth.

#### **I. The Birth of Jesus Christ**

*Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*

*Luke 2:2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)*

*Luke 2:3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*

We are told in Galatians chapter 4 that 'when the fullness of time was come that God sent forth His son.'

*Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

*Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

The miraculous birth of our Saviour by this virgin is one of the foundation stones of our Christian faith. We can never over emphasize the historic fact that Jesus was born of a virgin woman and came according to the scriptures. The "Child born" was the "Son given" as recorded over in Isaiah Chapter 9.

*Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

*Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Even the very city where Christ was to be born was written down in scripture years before Mary was ever born. One of the aspects that proves God's Word is truly His Word is how all the things written over hundreds and hundreds of years by more than 40 authors by inspiration of the Holy Spirit is all in harmony. If 3 men were told to write about what happened today, most likely the three reports would contradict one another. But there are no errors in prophecy, and all things came to pass just as God had them to pen it down. Just as there was a day for Christ to be born, believe me, there is a day coming when Jesus is coming again to take that throne of David mentioned there in Isaiah.

God sometimes uses the kings of this world to accomplish His will, and this was the case in Augustus making this decree that all the world should be taxed. He was a ruler of the ancient world and his throne was in Rome. God put it in this emperor's heart to tell everyone to go to his own city, the city where he was born in order to be taxed. For Joseph, this was the city of David, Bethlehem. This was God's way of bringing them to Bethlehem on time for Christ to be born. Verse 2 points out that the taxing was first made when Cyrenius was Governor of Syria. The people were obedient to the decree and came to their home towns.

*Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*

*Luke 2:5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*

Joseph and Mary made the long trek from Nazareth back to Bethlehem. All travel back in those days was either by foot or by donkey or camel. So you could not go long distances quickly as we can today. It mentions that Joseph was from the lineage of David as his genealogy bears out. Up until the time for Christ to be born, Mary had dwelled in the northern part of the land in the city of Nazareth. It took several days for them to make this journey. It is an interesting thought to whether Joseph or Mary either knew that the Lord was to be born in Bethlehem. If they did, they did not seem to have made any preparation for it.

*Luke 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*

*Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

Here we have the record of Christ's birth. It was sad that there was no room for them in the inn. But even sadder that after all these years and hundreds of fulfilled prophecies proving Jesus is God's only begotten Son, many still have no room for Him in their heart. There is one certainty in this life. If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you will not enter into heaven.

*Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

*Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*

*Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

*John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.*

*John 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.*

*John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

*John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

## **II. The Announcement to the Shepherds**

*Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

We find that the angel came to the shepherds while the wise men were led by the star in the heavens. This was no doubt a great privilege to be one of those that God allowed to hear about the Savior being born. Most likely these men were religious men who knew the Word of God and knew that God had promised a Messiah.

*John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

While these were shepherds tending their flocks, Jesus came as the Good Shepherd and knows all of us who are his sheep. It is not clear if the angel was Gabriel or not, but he was the angel chosen to make many of the announcements as he did when telling Mary that she was to be with child. The announcement brought fear to these men because it had been 400 years since the last prophets had spoken from the Lord. Until Gabriel appeared unto Zacharias, they had been in the period called the 'silent years'. The messenger tells them to 'fear not' in verse 11 as he had earlier in Chapter 1 verse 13 and 30.

J. Vernon McGee points out that most likely the date we use to remember the birth of Jesus is wrong.

Many people ask the question, "When was Jesus Christ born?" It could not have been in the dead of winter or the shepherds would not have been out at night with their sheep. But the date of His birth is irrelevant, just as the day upon which He was crucified is irrelevant. The Scripture does not say *when* He was born; the important thing is that He was born. The Scripture does not say *when* He was crucified; the important thing is that He died for our sins.

It is wonderful to see a little baby come into the world, and your heart goes out to him; there is a sympathy that goes from you to him. That is the way God entered the world. He could have entered—as He will when He comes to earth the second time—in power and great glory. Instead, He came in the weakest way possible, as a baby.

That is the way the Saviour came into the world. He did not lay aside His deity; He laid aside His glory. There should have been more than just a few shepherds and angels to welcome Him—all of creation should have been there. Instead of collecting taxes, that fellow Caesar should have been in Bethlehem to worship Him. Jesus Christ could have forced him to do that very thing, but He did not. He laid aside, not His deity, but His prerogatives of deity. He came a little baby thing.

*Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

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iJ. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

The angel tells them that there would be a sign given that they might know that it was Jesus Christ. He would be a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes laying in a manger. This was a great message to all people... "Good tidings of great joy." It says after the announcement, that a multitude of the heavenly host sang out "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." God was building a bridge between himself and fallen man.

Many today would give anything to have peace. But they will never find it until they come to Jesus for salvation. Jesus is the one who gives peace.

*John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

*Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

*Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

The shepherds waste no time. They say "Let us now go.." The bible speaks many times about the need for us to "go". While it doesn't show up in a great way, these men had faith. They didn't say "Let us now go up and see IF this came to pass"... but rather they say "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing WHICH IS COME TO PASS." They believed God. They were persuaded even before they saw Jesus. This is how we can be pleasing to God. We must believe He is who He says he is.

*Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Then what is Faith?

*Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*Luke 2:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

*Luke 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

*Luke 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

*Luke 2:20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*

It is interesting to note that the first evangelists about the birth of Jesus Christ were these shepherds. God came down to the common man with the greatest gift of all. It says their message caused men to wonder at the things they heard. Verse 19 says Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And after this, these shepherds return and they glorified the Lord and praised him for all the things they had heard and seen.

Matthew Henry made these comments about Mary and the shepherds.

The virgin Mary made them the matter of her *private meditation*. She said little, but *kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart*, v. 19. She laid the evidences together, and kept them in reserve, to be compared with the discoveries that should afterwards be made her. As she had silently left it to God to clear up her virtue, when that was suspected, so she silently leaves it to him to publish her honour, now when it was veiled; and it is satisfaction enough to find that, if no one else takes notice of the birth of her child, angels do. Note, The truths of Christ are worth keeping; and the way to keep them safe is to *ponder them*. Meditation is the best help to memory. 2. The shepherds made them the matter of their more *public praises*. If others were not affected with those things, yet they themselves were (v. 20): *They returned, glorifying and praising God*, in concurrence with the holy angels. If others would not regard the report they made to them, God would accept the thanksgivings they offered to him. They praised God for what *they had heard* from the angel, and for what *they had seen*, the babe *in the manger*, and just then *in the swaddling*, when they came in, as it had been spoken to them. They thanked God that they had seen Christ, though in the depth of his humiliation. As afterwards the cross of Christ, so now his *manger*, was to some *foolishness* and a *stumbling-block*, but others saw in it, and admired, and praised, the wisdom of God and the *power of God*. ii

### III. The Circumcision of Jesus

*Luke 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

As we studied earlier in the study of John the Baptist, all Jewish males were to be circumcised on the eighth day according the ordinances. It says that when

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iiHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.

they brought him to the temple, 'his name was called Jesus.' This was the name Mary had been instructed to name Christ at his birth by the angel.

*Luke 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;*

*Luke 2:23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)*

*Luke 2:24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.*

According to the law, after a child was born and a certain number of days had elapsed, a sacrifice was to be brought in recognition of the Lord's goodness to the parents. According to the law, that sacrifice could be a lamb, a kid of the goats, or if they were poor people, they could bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons. When Mary and Joseph came, they could not bring the higher priced offerings, but brought either the two turtledoves or two young pigeons. Jesus was born a humble man to poor humble parents. Never doubt what God may do with those who will be used in His service. Of this world's goods we may not have much, but if we have Jesus, we are rich beyond belief from the spiritual standpoint.

**Title:** Barnes Notes on the New Testament

**Author:** Barnes, Albert

Doves distinguished for having a plaintive and tender voice. By Mary's making this offering she showed her poverty; and our Saviour, by coming in a state of poverty, has shown that it is not dishonorable to be poor. No station is dishonorable where "God" places us. He knows what is best for us, and he often makes a state of poverty an occasion of the highest blessings. If "with" poverty he grants us, as is often the case, peace, contentment, and religion, it is worth far more than all the jewels of Golconda or the gold of Mexico. If it be asked why, since the Saviour was pure from any moral defilement in his conception and birth, it was necessary to offer such a sacrifice: why was it necessary that he should be circumcised, since he had no sin, it may be answered:

1. That it was proper to fulfill all righteousness, and to show obedience to the law, Matt. 3:15.
2. It was necessary for the future usefulness of Christ. Unless he had been circumcised, he could not have been admitted to any synagogue or to the temple. He would have had no access to the people, and COULD not have been regarded as the Messiah.

Both he and Mary, therefore, yielded obedience to the laws of the land, and thus set us an example that we should walk in their steps

#### **IV. The Adoration of Jesus Christ by Simeon**

*Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.*

*Luke 2:26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

Simeon was a devoted man of God that was about the Lord's work. It says in the verses that he was from Jerusalem and was just and devout. He was waiting for the comforting of Israel through the Messiah's coming. He was led by the Holy Ghost as all true Christians who are walking near to the Lord in His will. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he saw Christ. Surely at this time there were many Jews who recognized the time was upon them for the prophecy of Daniel 9 to come to pass. The promised Messiah, the King and Savior of Israel was soon to appear as was promised by the Word of God. These waited on him. And we who are alive today and look for Christ's coming are awaiting his second return today.

Paul told the Church in Thessalonica to wait on Jesus who will return from heaven to take us out in the rapture.

*1 Th 1:9 For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;*

*1 Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

We all need to be watching and looking for the soon return of Jesus Christ. He promised to come back, and I know He will do what he promised.

*John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

*John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

*John 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

*John 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

There was only a small remnant in Israel who were waiting for Jesus the first time he came. Most likely there will not be a large number at his second coming, but oh how there should be.



*Luke 2:27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,*

Simeon came by the leadership of the “Spirit” into the temple. How each of us needs to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit everyday of our lives. While he was there, Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus in to be circumcised. This was in accordance with the customs of the law, and they were obedient to the law.

*Lev 12:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean.*

*Lev 12:3 And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.*

*Luke 2:28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,*

*Luke 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:*

*Luke 2:30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,*

*Luke 2:31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;*

*Luke 2:32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

After many years of faithful service to the Lord, the desire of Simeon’s heart comes to pass. He picks up the child and makes a request to the Lord. “Let thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” The salvation of a soul is totally dependent upon us coming to Jesus. Simeon considered himself a servant of the Lord, and Jesus told the disciples before he died on the cross that those who wanted to be great should become the servant of all.

Simeon gives a prophecy in verses 31 and 32 as he says “Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” The church and the Gentiles being included was a mystery to those in the Old Testament. God had brought all mankind together in sending Christ to earth to die for the sins of all man. Christ would be a light not only to the Jews, but also to all the Gentiles. Simeon points out how that the light was to come to the Gentiles and then to the nation of Israel. This was truly due to the Jews rejection of Christ when he came. Because they would not listen and accept Christ as Messiah, God has blinded their eyes and now turned to the Gentiles during this period of time. But the nation of Israel will come back together and accept Christ one day.

*Luke 2:33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.*

*Luke 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;*

*Luke 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*

There are some special words from Simeon to Mary. He says that “this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel.” How true this was. He would be a sign which would be spoken against, and that a sword shall pierce through thy own soul. Oh how it hurt Mary to see Jesus die there on Calvary, as it did all who truly knew Him as Lord and Savior.

Verse 34 comes from Isaiah 8:14

*Isa 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

*Isa 8:15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.*

Christ became a stumbling block to both houses of Israel (Judah and Israel of the Northern Kingdom), but praise God that many were saved by Christ.

J. Vernon McGee made some good comments on these verses.

Notice that Luke calls them “Joseph and his mother,” not His father and mother.

Mary paid a tremendous price to bring the Savior into the world. She paid an awful price to stand beneath the cross of the Lord Jesus and watch Him die.

The cross of Christ has moved many people—artists have painted the picture, songwriters have written music about it, and authors and preachers have sketched those moments with words. There is a danger of dwelling on His death in a sympathetic way. Christ did not die to elicit anyone’s sympathy. He does not want your sympathy, He wants your faith. Later in the Gospel of Luke, when the Lord is on the way to the cross, some women began to weep. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children” (Luke 23:28). If you have tears for Jesus, save them for yourself and your family. Do not weep for Him, because He does not want your sympathy. Jesus Christ wants your faith.

However, when Mary stood beneath that cross and watched Jesus die, it was with a broken heart. Of course her suffering had nothing to do with *your* salvation; her suffering had nothing to do with *her* salvation. Her suffering was due to a human relationship. She was His human mother. She had brought Him into the world and raised Him. He was her son. You see, when our Lord looked down from the cross and said, “... Woman, behold thy son!” (John 19:26), a human relationship was there that

no one else had. She was suffering as His mother. And at that time the prophecy of Simeon was fulfilled—the sword pierced through her soul also. <sup>iii</sup>

## V. Anna Gives Thanks to the Lord

*Luke 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;*

*Luke 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.*

*Luke 2:38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

Anna was a good woman who served God with fastings and prayers night and day. It says she was about 84 years old, and a woman who departed not from the temple. We need people like Anna who will faithfully serve the Lord. If you want to accomplish something for God, you must be consistent in your service. People who live mountain top experiences and then valleys won't accomplish much in their lives for God. But slow, steady, faithful service will be used of the Lord in a great way. Anna had only lived seven years with her husband before he died. She was a woman who gave thanks unto the Lord and told others about the Word and His redemption.

## VI. The Return to Nazareth and the Silent Years

*Luke 2:39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.*

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

It was after they had performed all the things according to the law of the Lord that Joseph and Mary returned to their own city of Nazareth. It is important in our service that we also do the 'all' things of service required of us. It is promised that the Lord will abundantly bless the church when they teach the new disciples to observe 'All' things that He commanded.

*Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

We see three important things about Jesus as He grew.

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<sup>iii</sup>J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

1. He waxed strong in spirit
2. He was filled with wisdom
3. The Grace of God was upon Him.

## VII. Jesus and His Parents at the Passover

*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.*

The parents of Jesus were faithful to the law and customs and went to Jerusalem each year to keep the Passover. This was a command of the law from over in Exodus.

*Exo 23:15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)*

*Exo 12:25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.*

*Exo 12:26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?*

*Exo 12:27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.*

There were rules about who could eat and who could not eat the Passover. A stranger, a hired servant, or a foreigner could not eat of the Passover. Similar rules are given concerning the Lord's Supper, but many ignore those and let anyone who enters the congregation partake of it today. This is not pleasing to the Lord.

*Exo 12:43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:*

*Exo 12:44 But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.*

*Exo 12:45 A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.*

*Exo 12:46 In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.*

*Exo 12:47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.*

*Exo 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him*

*come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.*

*Exo 12:49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.*

*Exo 12:50 Thus did all the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.*

When Jesus (verse 42) was 12 we have record that he made the trip to observe the Passover feast. This doesn't mean he had not attended before, it was just a record of this particular journey. Verse 21 shows that he had been brought to the temple when he was 8 days old, and we know His parents went to the Passover each year in Jerusalem. We just don't have a record that he went before this time.

*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.*

There are several things we can learn from these verses here in 43-47 about Jesus Christ. The first was that the parents attended the feast and then left without Jesus. They thought he was with some of the other family members or acquaintances. They took it for granted he was in their presence. We need to not assume Jesus is with us, but we must be sure. If you can't go back to a time in your life when you turned your life over to Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, He is not in your life. You can attend church and have all the saved relatives you can count, but it is a one on one decision that you must make. Mommy and Daddy can not do anything to save you.

You must come to Christ on your own. Joseph and Mary did not go to the trouble to be sure Jesus was with them, and went a whole day's journey before finding He was not in their group. They sought him among their kinfolks and friends but could not find him. In our lives, is Jesus among our kinfolks and friends? If not, we should be witnessing and letting them know about the Savior who can save them from their sins. They went back to Jerusalem to seek him and after 3 days they found him. They found him in the temple studying with those who knew about the Word of God. It astonished these 'doctors' of the law of what all he knew and his questions that he asked. When he was asked a question, they

were amazed at his grasp and understanding of God's Word. This was no normal 12 year old. This was the only begotten Son of God.

*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.*

Mary was probably right in being upset with Christ. Perhaps they had been slack in being sure he was with the group before they departed, but I'm sure they expected him to follow along. She questions Jesus and says "Why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." They were being good parents and were concerned about their son's welfare. What they failed to understand was that Jesus was more concerned about doing the very Will of the Heavenly Father, His true Father. In verse 49, he says "How is it ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" They heard the words, but did not comprehend what he was truly saying.

*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.*

We have record here that all children should note. He went back with Joseph and Mary and was subject unto them. He obeyed his Father and Mother as the law commanded. And as the days went by, Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Our days should be like this. We should be growing in God's Word each day, and growing more like Jesus. When we do that, we will surely increase in favor with God.

Matthew Henry said this about verse 52.

*That he improved, and came on, to admiration (v. 52): He increased in wisdom and stature. In the perfections of his divine nature there could be no increase; but this is meant of his human nature, his body increased in stature and bulk, he grew in the growing age; and his soul increased in wisdom, and in all the endowments of a human soul. Though the Eternal Word was united to the human soul from his conception, yet the divinity that dwelt in him manifested itself to his humanity by degrees, *ad modum recipientis*—in proportion to his capacity; as the faculties of his human soul grew more and more capable, the gifts it received from the divine nature were more and more communicated. And he increased in favour with God and man, that is, in all those graces that rendered him acceptable to God and man. Herein Christ accommodated himself to his estate of humiliation, that, as he condescended to be an infant, a child, a youth, so the image of God shone brighter*

in him, when he grew up to be a youth, than it did, or could, while he was an *infant* and a *child*. Note, Young people, as they grow in stature, should grow in wisdom, and then, as they grow in wisdom, they will grow in favour *with God and man*. iv

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**

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ivHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.