

Luke 2:41-52 Understanding Jesus

As our faith gains understanding of Jesus we find peace in His Person and purpose.

- 1) Analysis of Narrative Structure:
 - a) *Background:*
 - i) **Jesus filled with wisdom (v. 40)**
 - ii) family's piety
 - b) *Setting:* Jerusalem during Feast of Passover
 - i) Significance for Redemption
 - ii) Significance for Firstborn Son
 - c) *Conflict:* Jesus' parents can't **find** Him
 - i) Cause: Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem
 - ii) Cause: Parents' faulty **supposition**
 - d) *Failed solutions:* Parents **search** among family and friends and around Jerusalem
 - e) *Climax:* Jesus **found** at the Temple
 - f) *Resolution:* **Understanding** Jesus in Relation to God
 - i) *Setting:* Temple
 - (1) Jesus is **astounding** the teachers of Israel
 - (2) his parents are **astonished**
 - ii) *Conflict:* Mary rebukes Jesus based on His **relationship to his parents**
 - iii) *Climax:* Jesus gently rebukes Parents based on His **relationship to God**
 - iv) *"Resolution":* Parents do **not understand** Jesus, but Mary shows determination to **understand** Him
 - g) *Postscript:* **Jesus increased in wisdom (v. 52)**
- 2) Even the devout must grow in understanding Jesus.
 - a) Understanding His Person: "My Father's house" tells us that Jesus is the Son of God; that He was subject to His parents and "increased in wisdom" tells us that Jesus has a true human nature; the incarnation is the union of two distinct natures (Human & Divine) in one Person (forever); He is "the Son" in His eternal Divine nature and in His incarnation (Second Adam/True Israel)
 - b) Understanding His Purpose: "I must be . . ."—Divine necessity; cf. 9:51 "He set His face to go to Jerusalem." 13:33 "I must go on My way . . . for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem." 18:31-34 Jesus' mission and the disciples' lack of understanding
- 3) Misunderstanding Jesus often leads to panicked searching and unnecessary distress.
 - a) v. 48 "Behold, *your father and I* have been *searching* for You in *great distress!*"
 - b) v. 49 "Why were you *searching* for Me? You knew that I must be in *My Father's house*, didn't you?"
- 4) You can add understanding to your faith in Jesus and find greater peace in His Person and purpose.
 - a) How? 2 Peter 1:5-15—the practice of faith and Christian instruction
 - b) Are you, like Mary, expecting Jesus to conform to your values? Could some of your distress be caused by misunderstanding Christ's redemptive purpose in your life?
 - c) Will you, like Mary, treasure the knowledge of Christ and ponder Him in your heart? He is "wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption" for His people (1 Cor. 1:30).