



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

Jesus' Own Witness that He is The Messiah!

MAY 20-21, 2026

Pastor David Andersen / 804-683-2285 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Luke 2:41-52 *His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42) And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. 43) When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it. 44) but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45) So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. 46) Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47) And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. 48) So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." 49) And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" 50) But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. 51) Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. 52) And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED. HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED; BUT HE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD. JOHN 3:16-18

Why do they attend the Feast of Passover? Is this the equivalent of a Bar Mitzvah? What was the greatest delight of Jesus when He was a "boy?" Had both parents probably expected Jesus to be with the other? Did they expect Him to be waiting at the gates of Jerusalem for them? Why is Jesus with the teachers in the Temple? What causes everyone to be astonished? Was Mary rebuking Jesus? How does He gently correct His mother? Does He state His life's work and mission? Why didn't they understand? Is He submissive to them? What does His life look like for the next 18 years?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 27-28: LUKE 3:1-9 *JOHN'S WITNESS OF THE CURRENT MESSIAH!*
- JUNE 3-5: LUKE 3:10-20 *THE PROPER RESPONSE TO THE MESSIAH*

This even occurs in the spring of 9 AD when Israel had been delegated to Syrian rule by Rome and Coponius was the current Procurator, ruling from Caesarea. Annas was the Jewish High Priest when Jesus chose to become a student of the Doctors of the Law who were part of the Sanhedrin, leading the Court of Appeals in the Temple. They were the top scholars of the Scriptures and would teach only on certain Sabbaths and at the three feast times each year, required by the Law for all the men to attend in Jerusalem. Jesus, from the town of Nazareth, would have access to only one rabbi in His synagogue, for questions regarding the Scriptures. Though there were likely over 210,000 attending the Passover and the seven day feast that followed it, Jesus was privileged to be included among the students in the Temple, though He was only 12 years old. He was most delighted and eager!

FOR I HAVE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME.

JOHN 6:38

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM –FREDERICKSBURG – PARADISE DINER – 260 WARRENTON RD

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM –RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, HULL & COURTHOUSE & NOON – LYNCHBURG – PANERA BREAD, 3901 OLD FOREST RD.

Virginia

Jesus' Own Witness that He is The Messiah!

I. HIS ADOLESCENCE

LUKE 2:41-45

Mary and Joseph were always careful to obey the Law, so though they were poor, they would save enough to make the trip to Jerusalem three times a year (Exodus 23:14-17; 34:23-24; Deuteronomy 16:16-17). All of these joyous feasts were centered in gratitude to God and giving back to Him for all He had given them and done for them. Now Jesus is twelve, to us just a sixth grader, but in Jewish culture he became a "son of the Law," and thus became a man. The responsibility shifted from the parent to the son or daughter at this age, and they were now entirely responsible as an adult to obey the Law and fulfill all its 613 requirements. This was when a Jewish boy also began to exercise his own will. With their arranged marriages, he could then request a bride, or choose a vocation, begin a business, go to school or let his father know that he planned to apprentice under him to learn the family business. After the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Jesus chose to exercise His will by revealing His delight in His real Father, God Himself, so he "*lingered behind in Jerusalem*," to enjoy prayer in His Father's House and also learn more about the Scriptures. Like Anna who "*did not depart from the Temple*" (2:37), He probably even slept there. When Joseph and Mary left, they expected He was in their caravan and didn't discover He was missing until the end of their first day. So they returned and were busy looking for Him everywhere.

"I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF; BUT AS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS. AND HE WHO SENT ME IS WITH ME. THE FATHER HAS NOT LEFT ME ALONE, FOR I ALWAYS DO THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM." JOHN. 8:28-29

II. HEARERS ASTONISHED

LUKE 2:46-48

After looking all over Jerusalem, they must have finally gone to the Temple. There they were amazed to find that Jesus was so privileged as to sit among "*the teachers*" or Doctors of the Law, elected to the Sanhedrin, the ruling

body in Israel. Watching, they realized that not only was He "*listening to them and asking them questions*," their Boy was astonishing everyone with His incredible intellect and insightful answers. Never had these Doctors seen such a bright mind in a student! But Mary didn't forget they had spent three days looking for Him, so she demands, "*Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously*." Jesus was totally surprised; first, they were completely disregarding the incredible privilege His Father provided for Him and taking it personal that He had not gone with them. Second, they had spent so much time looking for Him when He had been in His Father's House all along. And third, they were anxious, while they should have remembered that He enjoyed absolute safety in His Father's care (Matthew 2:13-23).

"OR DO YOU THINK THAT I CANNOT NOW PRAY TO MY FATHER, AND HE WILL PROVIDE ME WITH MORE THAN TWELVE LEGIONS (72,000) OF ANGELS?" MATTHEW 26:53

III. HIGHER AUTHORITY

LUKE 2:49-52

For the first time, Jesus makes a break with His human parental authority and focuses on His Higher Authority. He now revealed that He understood that God is His Father and that His authority was ultimate. "*Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*" Here Jesus is revealing the exercise of His will to Joseph and Mary, showing that His personal delight and future vocation is of necessity accomplishing the things and will of His Father in Heaven! This is a clean break from the authority of His earthly parents to His divine necessity in accomplishing the will and words of His Father. This is also a gentle correction to Mary that she had mentioned the wrong father. They don't understand, but in obedience to His Father, Jesus willingly and continually submits to them. He also continually advanced perfectly in His human intellect, stature, and grace or lovingkindness before God & men.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What is your ultimate delight if given the opportunity to exercise your will?
- 2) Have you believed in Jesus Christ, asked Him to forgive your sin, and embraced Him as your Lord?
- 3) Are you advancing as Jesus in wisdom, strength, and lovingkindness in your relationship with God and others?