

Finding in the Temple: 2:41-50



- 2:41 Luke indicates that it was **normal** for the Holy Family to travel to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover in the month of Nisan (March/April)
- 2:42 When Jesus was 12 years old they went AS usual
- it was time for his Bar-Mitzvah when he would be declared a religious ADULT and be responsible for his own decisions -
 - as part of the ritual he would be tested on his knowledge of the Old Testament and some commentaries!
- 2:43 Jesus accepted the declaration of adulthood and so decided TO REMAIN in Jerusalem when the family began their journey home.
- 2:44 They travelled in a CARAVAN - that is the relatives and villagers would travel together for safety --
- the women and men separated into their groups
 - the children stayed together for the journey

hence Jesus was not missed until the end of the first day's travel when families would settle for the night in camps...

(NB) This story of Jesus' Youth is unparalleled in 4 Gospels.

- Luke gives us a glimpse of what 2:40 means
 - that he grew in Wisdom... to maturity...
- In fact Luke shows that Jesus had enormous wisdom and maturity at 12 years of age
 - enough to astound the Priest-teachers of Jerusalem!

The story is deceptively simple relating the gut-wrenching pain of parents losing a child.

- and their shock at seeing him in a new role as the Teacher of the Teachers and he only 12 years old!!

- 2:48 The 'WHY' of a grieving mother is met with the enigmatic "Why were you looking for me?" of the child.
- it's completely out of character... he never did this before!
- 2:49-50 Then, in the presence of the Teachers of the Law **and** in the presence of Mary and Joseph... **IN PUBLIC** Jesus reveals his True Father for the first time!!
- 2:50 "They did not understand what he meant"
- Luke has not made it CLEAR what Jesus meant either!
 - "My Father's affairs"... what were they?

Here at the beginning of his adult life Jesus declares that he has a PERSONAL DUTY to His Father

- the Redemption of the Human Race -
and, in the interests of **THAT** duty he asserts an ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE from creatures.
- These are the First recorded words of Jesus.
- His LAST recorded Words: "It is FINISHED" cf Ps 40:6-10 Heb 10:5-6

(NB) At the end of his Ministry Jesus will teach the Teachers in the Temple again:
Luke 19:47; 20:1-45; 21:37; 22:53

At 12 years the priests were "**astounded** at his intelligence and his replies" Lk 2:48
From chap 20 they give their **final** rejection of him...

- This phenomenon is repeated in Acts of Apostles as Jesus' continuators also preach in the Temple. Acts 4:2; 5:21, 25
- Then they, too, are rejected and persecuted and some martyred.

Luke's theme of Lost and Found

This text points to the future in a prophetic way - what happens here will also happen in his Passion...

- (a) Here: Jesus is lost for 3 days.
Great grief and searching by parents. Found in God's Presence doing God's Will
- (b) There in the Passion: Jesus is 'lost' in death: 3 days
Great grief by Apostles
Jesus is found in Resurrection in God's Presence having accomplished God's Will in Redemption I cf Jn 14:31

cf **Jn 4:34** "My food is to do the Will of him who sent me **and** to finish his work.

Lost and Found on a Moral and Spiritual Plane

- (a) Luke ch 15: The Prodigal Son = lost and found... was lost in sin... found in repentance...
- (b) Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

19:9-10 "Today, salvation has come to this house, because, this man, too, is a Son of Abraham.
For the Son of Man **CAME** to seek and to save what was lost"

Jesus' experience of being lost and found was the price he paid for sinners to be restored to the Father in Redemption...

all they have to do is ASK... RECEIVE... SEEK... FIND... KNOCK... OPEN DOOR Mt 7:7-8

2:51-52

Jesus resumed a life under the authority of Joseph and Mary.
The result was that he reached the full stature required by God and be Messiah + Saviour of all the world.

INTRODUCING THE SON OF GOD TO ISRAEL

Stage 2: The Coming of the Messiah

Stage 1 showed that God protected the privacy of His Son in his birth and childhood. Few people knew who he was...

Stage 2 **is different**. The privacy is gone. Christ has become a **public** figure. This raises 2 questions: a) who **is** Jesus of Nazareth?
b) what has he come on Earth to **do**?

(NB)

This would have to be demonstrated clearly and carefully because the expectations of who or what THE MESSIAH would be when he came were a) uncertain b) confused c) conflicting

Luke wants to guide us to the answers by giving us what was said by:

- 1) God the Father at Jesus' Birth, Baptism and Transfiguration
 - 2) By John the Baptist, the divinely appointed forerunner
 - 3) By Christ Himself
 - 4) By those who discerned him - Elizabeth } Shepherds / Simeon / Anna
Zechariah }
 - 5) By the Apostles – 'you are the Christ': Mt. 16:16
 - and 6) Finally, by the demons themselves
- Luke has carefully constructed his evidence so that a clear and balanced picture is given to the reader. The gospel is **NOT** a haphazard collection of stories and events just strung together.
 - Here is the plan for chapters 3 and 4 of Luke's Gospel.

STAGE TWO OF THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH

Beginning of Public Ministry

Luke continues his comparison between Jesus and John

PREPARATION FOR THE PUBLIC MINISTRY 3:1 – 4:13

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| A. John in the desert and at the Jordan: | 3:1-20 |
| a) John's identity and function: | 3:4-6: fulfills Isaiah 40:3-5 |
| b) John demands evidence of repentance from the people | 3:8 |
| c) The People's response: expectation of the Messiah | 3:15 |
| d) Herod imprisons John | 3:19-20 |
| B. Jesus at the Jordan and in the desert: | 3:21-4:13 |
| a) The Father reveals Jesus' identity | 3:22 / Luke in 3:38 / Demons 4:3,9 |
| b) The demon demands evidence from Christ: | 4:3, 9 |
| c) The demon's response: tries to "buy" Jesus: | 4:6-7 |

THE BEGINNING OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

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| C. Jesus at Nazareth | 4:16-30 |
| a) Christ's identity and mission: fulfills Isaiah 61:1-2 | 4:17-19 |
| b) Demand for evidence from Christ: | 4:23 |
| c) The people's reaction: Amazement and unbelief | 4:22 |
| d) The people try to kill Jesus | 4:28-30 |

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| D. Jesus at Capernaum | 4:31-43 |
| a) Devils reveal the identity of Christ | 4:34 / 4:41 |
| b) Jesus refuses evidence from demons | 4:35, 41 |
| c) A question of Authority | 4:36 |

General Note in Luke 4:44 “Jesus continued his preaching in the synagogues of Judea”

Initially Luke continues his comparison between Jesus and John the Baptist to make sure that the people knew which was the Messiah!

- Many thought John the Baptist had to be the Messiah... even after Pentecost: Acts 19:1-7

So, in the first two movements of Luke 3 we have the final comparison given...

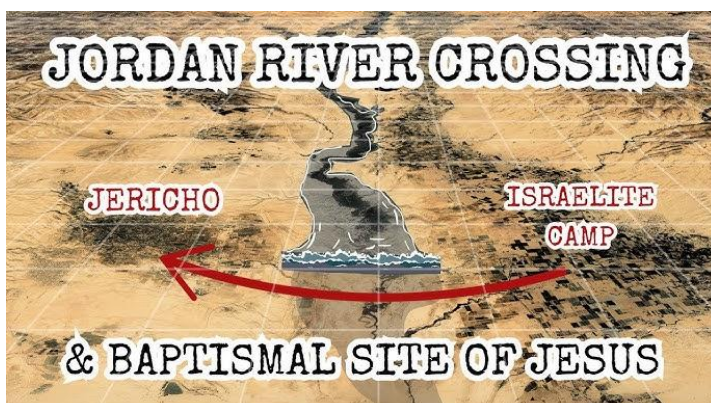
Note **the Place** of Action – 3:2-3

John the Baptist went to the River Jordan, and in 4:1 Jesus left the River Jordan to go to the wilderness...

- it was at Bethabara or “Bethany Beyond the Jordan”
- one day’s walk from Qumran
- the place of Entry to Promised Land



- Joshua (4:9) left 12 standing stones to witness to the miracle of the entrance to the promised land:
- **these** stones would “cry out” – i.e. bear witness against the people if they refuse the grace God offers now in Redemption.
- Gentiles were often referred to as “STONES” – meaning they were spiritually dead – yet the Gentiles accepted Jesus and Redemption... ∴ have “cried out” for the past 2,000 years!



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| A. ① <u>JOHN IN THE DESERT AND AT THE JORDAN:</u> | 3:1-20 |
| • “the word of God came to John... in the wilderness” | 3:2 |
| • John obeyed God’s Word... no consideration of personal convenience: just obedience | 3:3-18 |