

## Luke 2:40-52 – Jesus – the Wisdom we need

Main Point – In Jesus we see and gain true wisdom

Clint Le Page

When I was growing up, if you were wanting to understand or learn about something, there was no internet or google.

We relied on these (SLIDE) – Encyclopedias, books, libraries.

I'm guessing there's not too many of us that still have a set of Encyclopedia Britannica's? Today, if you need to learn about something, get understanding, find answers, where do you turn?-----

Many of us turn to Google, the internet, and to AI, Artificial Intelligence (SLIDE)

Maybe you even use Dr Google for your *medical diagnoses*, when you should be seeking wisdom and expertise from an *actual* doctor?-----

When you seek wisdom for life, (SLIDE) maybe you turn to your friends, your family, or other wise people.

Or maybe you still rely on the internet – which can be so hit & miss, helpful & unhelpful. If we want to know what to base our lives on, where to find meaning, how to get to God, or how to live a truly *full* life, a God-honouring life; we need God's word. (SLIDE)

But particularly, we need Jesus.-----

Today we'll see that if we're going to be truly wise and make wise *choices*, we need Jesus.-----

We're in this series through the early chapters of Luke's Gospel. (SLIDE)

It was written about 30 years after Jesus died, and ch1 told us he had spoken to the eyewitnesses and carefully investigated everything. (1.1-4)

It's likely that the story we read today was told to Luke by Mary.-----

Here, we get the only description of Jesus between infancy and 30 years old.

We'd love to know more about Jesus as a child, like did he do miracles then?

But clearly God has decided that we don't need to know.---

*This is it.* It's a glimpse into the boy Jesus, the Son of God.

And that's where we'll start today, **Point 1, Jesus' Boyhood.** (SLIDE)

Last Sunday we heard how Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple, then returned to Nazareth.

Andy highlighted how Joseph & Mary were righteous parents.

They were poor and ordinary, but committed to obeying God's word.

We see that again today, **v41 – every year** they traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.

That's a 4 day walk each way from Nazareth

Even when it's costly, they are taking responsibility to follow God's word and to raise their family to trust and obey the Lord too.-----

They are ordinary and godly. But we see that Jesus is extraordinary.-----

**V40 says**, the boy Jesus grew up.

v40 and 52 are like bookends to this section – highlighting Jesus' growth physically and spiritually.

Yet we zoom in-on this event that happened when he was 12.-----

The 7-day Passover festival is over, so Mary and Joseph head back to Nazareth with their other family n' friends.

And they just presume, Jesus, the eldest child is with them.

Now most eldest children know, we're expected to be responsible, aren't we?

Responsible and obedient.

Jesus' Mum and Dad just assume he's with the group.

It takes them a day to realise he's not, and then begin looking for him.

Obviously it was a big group from Nazareth who they were with.

But he wasn't with them.----- He was lost.-----

To lose your child is a pretty common thing.-----

Losing your car, car keys or phone is bad enough.

I remember losing a 2 year old in K-Mart for just 2 mins, and it is next level stress.-----

Once when my mother-in-law, Judy was looking after our two youngest kids, they went to the shopping centre.

And 6yo Alexis had to go to the toilet, but when they got there, 4yo Micah just ran off – he sprinted away.

In panic, Judy left Alexis in the care of a stranger near the women's bathroom, and ran off after little Micah – as fast as a grandparent can go.-----

To lose your child or grandchild at the shops or anywhere, is just distressing.

And after 5mins or so of hunting, searching, and running, Judy found and took Micah by the hand.

We thank God that while once he was lost, *then* he was found.-----

Micah *keeps being reminded* of the stress it caused his grandmother.-----

Losing your child and not knowing where they are is a horrible experience.

In **v45&46** I imagine Mary and Joseph being totally distressed, while they search the city for 3 days – talk about commitment and love and perseverance.

I wonder if they blamed each other – “I thought he was with you?” “*Weren't* you looking after him? Didn't you check?”-----

Eventually, after being separated for 4 days, they find 12yo Jesus in the temple, sitting & talking with the teachers of the law.

*Astonished*, his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

That word anxious can also describe distress, grief and agony.-----

They were super-worried.-----

Look at Jesus' reply; his first recorded words in the Bible, there in **v49**:

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked them. “Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?”

The anxiety he caused was not intentional.

But the Bible says, like in **1 Pet 2.22, (SLIDE)** Jesus was without sin.

So how do you correct a sinless, perfect child?----- None of us know.-----

Jesus was not being rude here. But he was still a child.

And he is boggled as to why they didn't know where he'd be.

They were astonished. But it seems Jesus is *astonished* that they don't understand.

They don't really understand what it means that he is the Son of God.-----

We'll think more about that shortly, but notice **v51**, Jesus returned home to Nazareth with them, ‘and was obedient to them’.-----

Jesus, as a *teenager*, honoured and obeyed his parents.-----

Children and teenagers, from this passage what does God ask of you?-----

One thing is, to obey and honour your parents. (**SLIDE-Eph 6:1-2**)

Don't just think, “Yeh, Jesus could obey his parents 'cos he was the Son of God, and his parents were better than mine.”

No, he gives a model for all kids to follow.

One way you love God, and follow Jesus, is by respecting and obeying your parents, and the authorities.

How are you going at that?-----

Is there something you should do differently, and ask God to help you change?

In **v49** Jesus also said to his mother, 'Didn't you know it was *necessary* for me to be **in my Father's house**'.

Jesus highlights that his relationship with, and allegiance to his heavenly 'Father' came first.

Jesus had an earthly father by law, and a heavenly Father, whom he had a greater obligation to.

Young Jesus stressed his parents out, but it's actually because he is *radical* in his obedience to God.

And for Jesus, knowing God's word, understanding it, living it, mattered most.-----  
He must serve God.

And if two loyalties clash, then God comes first.-----

Like when Peter and the apostles are commanded by the Jewish leaders to not talk about Jesus, Peter replies in **Acts 5.29,(SLIDE)**

'We must obey God rather than people.'-----

Teacher and writer, **Thabiti Anyabwile,(SLIDE)** helpfully says this to the teens and pre-teens:

*Most of you were converted at a young age.* We praise God for you. That's a wonderful testimony and you should cherish it. God has granted for you to *seek him in* your youth, just as the Lord Jesus sought his Father in his youth.

*Some of you have earthly parents who do not understand your faith.* That's a hard thing. But Jesus' parents didn't understand him. The Lord Jesus did not let that keep him from honouring his earthly parents as well as his heavenly Father. *Submit to them* as an act of submission to God. Do your best, with prayer and faith, to honour God and honour your parents.

I'd add that's true whatever our age – we honour our parents.-----

If yours are alive, *what does that look like for you?*-----

Thirdly, Anyabwile says, *If you're one of those teenagers who think they know everything*, then know two things also: 1, You're not the first to *think* you know *everything*, and 2, you don't know everything. Many of us adults thought we knew everything when we were teens and acted the same way. Many of us found out the hard way that we didn't know all that much. We didn't even know something as basic as this:

The main way God gets his voice into your life is through the counsel and leadership of your parents. Your parents are the authority God has placed in your life for your blessing and protection. When you honour your parents you honour your God. They may not be good parents, so you may not be able to obey everything they say and do, because you would then be *disobeying God*. When that happens, choose God. But resist the temptation to think you don't need to submit to your parents. Even Jesus the Son of God did.-----

Having considered Jesus' boyhood, **Point 2 is Jesus' Wisdom.(SLIDE)**

In **v40**, Luke described Jesus' younger years saying he grew up and became strong. That likely means '*spiritually strong*', like for John the Baptists in ch1 v80.

Jesus was also '*filled with wisdom*'.

Wisdom is having the right understanding of things.

It's *particularly* about knowing how to apply the truth to life.

It's *more than* having knowledge, for the wise person makes wise & godly choices.

It's about knowing the truth and rightly *living it out*.

And all that stems from relationship with God.

For remember the *fear of the Lord* (a deep respect for the Lord), is the beginning of wisdom – **Prov 9:10(SLIDE)**

Wisdom comes from God, and by his grace.-----

We read of Jesus' wisdom as a 12 year old.

In **v47** - *astounding* the adult Jewish teachers with *his understanding* and answers.

Jesus already knew the Word of God deeply.-----

And his wisdom was there in **v49**:

'It was necessary for me to be in my Father's house.'

The original Greek *doesn't have the word 'house'*.

It reads, 'it was necessary for me to be in/ on the ... of my Father'.

It could be speaking about where Jesus was – *in his* Father's temple, or it could mean, he is on about his Father's business & priorities.

Both were true.-----

Jesus is revealing a profound understanding of his *identity and purpose*.

This means Jesus *knew* he was the Son of God, and had a unique relationship with God the Father.

That's why he's in the temple, talking with and asking questions of the teachers of God's word.-----

Ultimately it means he has come to bring salvation, (**SLIDE**) and bring us into relationship with the Father. (**John 1.12-13; 3.16-17; 17.3; Gal 3.26**)

For everyone who puts their trust in Jesus will gain a relationship with God as Father too, as we're adopted as God's *children*.-----

To have God as your heavenly Father, you need to trust Jesus.-----

But coming back to my point, in prioritising God and God's priorities, Jesus demonstrates his wisdom. (**SLIDE**)

And the passage finished with this main point – Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.

Like *any teenager*, he was learning and progressing physically, mentally and relationally.

He's developing good relationships and reputation with God and people.----

He's an example of living wisely.-----

But it's amazing to consider what the rest of the **NT** goes onto say about Jesus and wisdom.

**Col 2v3** says about Jesus Christ, (**SLIDE**) 'In *him* are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'

So if you and I want wisdom, or more wisdom, it's found in Christ; always in Christ, and knowing him more.

It's exactly what Paul said in Corinthians.

**1 Cor 1:24, (SLIDE)**, 'Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God',

And down in **v30**,

It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

So when we have Jesus, we get wisdom, wisdom from God.

Because Jesus reveals God, enables us to know God. He opens the way to God.

As we are granted righteousness, holiness and redemption.

The wise person will want that.-----

And it is God's word that makes us wise for salvation (**SLIDE-2Tim3.15**).

I am so thankful for those who taught me God's word and about Jesus in Sunday School. I was saved by believing the words they spoke.----

I am so thankful for all of you, who do or have or will teach kids in Sunday School and Youth. And for all of you who pray for that ministry.

It's life changing.-----

And yet, we can read the bible or teach all we want, but if a person is not open, receptive and listening, it can fall on deaf ears, and hard hearts.-----

So we must **Seek him, Seek Christ, Point 3.**-----

When Jesus' earthly parents realised he was lost, in v44 they began looking for him', the word can mean 'searching for him'.

They return to Jerusalem to 'search for him'.(v45)

Then when he's found, Mary says to young Jesus, 'Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you'.

And Jesus replies, 'Why were you searching for me?' Didn't you know I'd be here. Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus. And if all the treasures of wisdom are found in him, then we need to search for him too.

You need to search for him until you find him.

If you've not found Jesus, he's not far from you (Rev 3.20).

Even today, he offers salvation, and purpose and peace.

He offers you a right relationship with God and freedom from judgement.

You need only turn your back on disobeying God, and rely on his Son Jesus.

Trust in Jesus, commit to follow him as Lord, and you will find the greatest treasure in the whole-wide-world.

You will also find the best way to live.

The truth about God, and about how to live the way life was meant to be lived.-----

If you want to explore this more, maybe you could try this book by Paul Grimmond – 'Right Side up – Life as God meant it to be'.-----

I recently **installed some outdoor security cameras at my house**.

And if I didn't follow the instructions, and download the app, install the batteries and link it to my wifi, it was never going to work.

I needed to follow the User Manual, (**SLIDE**) the creator's instructions, for my camera to work.

And you and I need to follow our Creator's instructions, for our lives to work.

Because God gives us everything we need for life and godliness.

By his Spirit and his word, and with prayer, God gives us true wisdom for life.-----

So if you're a follower of Jesus, one thing that means is that, we need to be in the word, engaging with the word, just like young Jesus did.

I'm not saying, let's expect 12 year olds, or any of us to spend 4 straight days in bible study because Jesus did.

But, instead of wasting away our time doom-scrolling, or on Netflix; or the hours in that novel, or in bed, or whatever; we need to engage our minds with the word of God.

I know life is busy, and we have work, or families and many commitments.

But like for Jesus, unless I'm listening to what my heavenly Father says to me in his word, and I'm learning more about the Son of God, I will not increase in wisdom.

We need to be seeking wisdom from God's written word, gathering together to hear it, studying it together.-----

Remember how David in **Psalm 19, (SLIDE)** he desired it, valued it, sought it.

That word of God which gives gladness to the heart and light to the eyes.

That word which wisely warns us, and which in keeping it there is great reward.

That word of God which guides us to live lives that please our Rock and our Redeemer.----

Mary the mother of Jesus seemed to live this out.

Back in Luke 2.51 Mary treasured up in her heart the things Jesus said; as she did in v19.

We need to reflect on and grapple with the extraordinary truth about Jesus.

Who is Jesus? And when I follow him, what does that mean for my life, my priorities, my choices?-----

We need wisdom, and in God's word we find it.-----

We need to believe and obey everything Christ commanded(**SLIDE-Matt 28.20**).-----

Which Jesus says in **John 17.8**, are actually words which came from the Father.-----

And when we do believe and obey him, will be living wisely, like Jesus did.-----

Yes, often **making wise choices can be really complicated**.-----

**Ashley Chen from Singapore** writes on Our Daily Bread Ministries,

When Seng Kuan told his parents about his decision to get baptised, his father screamed at him, accused him of forsaking his heritage, stormed out of the flat, and slammed the door behind him.(**SLIDE**)-----

Seng eventually decided to go *ahead with his baptism*, but to honour them he decided to care for them; with visits, acts of service, and expressions of thanks.

Ashley says, my parents were opposed to my faith. Each time I told Papa about my plans for short-term mission trips, he would express his disapproval.

With their active opposition to my faith I often feel caught between them and God. In this fallen world, some parents abuse, abandon, or aggravate children [disregarding the call in Ephesians 6:4 to parents not to exasperate their children].-----

In such situations, learning to honour our parents can be especially challenging.

Ashley says, I believe that in choosing to put God first, we may sometimes end up going against some of our parents' wishes—but this does not mean that we do not continue honouring them. And we need to take any such decisions carefully, being guided by godly wisdom and discernment, as different situations may call for different responses.

(<https://odb.sg/faith-and-life/how-can-i-honour-my-non-christian-parents-whether-or-not-they-oppose-my-faith/>)  
I totally agree.

If you're wanting to think more about such moral dilemmas, maybe reading a book like this would help,(**SLIDE**) Andrew Cameron's 'Joined-up life: A Christian account of how ethics works'.

It's important for us to know how Christ and our identity in him shapes the choices we make.

We are to live in a way that is Christ-centred and derived from the principles in God's word.-----

Andy asked us last week, 'Who are your influencers?'-----

Let's seek and listen to and ask questions of older wiser believers and bible teachers.---

And let's learn from the 12yo Jesus.-----

Sometimes I know younger siblings can be told, 'Why can't you be more like your older sister/ older brother?'

Well, if we've become children of God by faith in Jesus, then Jesus is our older brother, and we are meant to grow more like him.(**SLIDE**)-----

Wise like him. Wise in him. As we seek wisdom in God's word.-----

Jesus has the wisdom we need.

If you're wise, you'll come to him, and follow his word.-----

Let's pray.