

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE OF JESUS:

THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS

Luke 2.40-52

“Why do we have to go to church today?” the boy whined to his mother. “Because it is Sunday,” she replied, “and that’s what we’re supposed to do.” So off they went to church services just like they do every week.

How many people simply follow their normal custom and attend church services but have very little purpose in their Christian lives? The book of Deuteronomy commands repeatedly that the people of God regularly go “*to the place the LORD your God shall choose*” and worship Him (e.g., Deut. 12.5-26). Joseph and Mary, with their children- Jesus and His brothers and sisters followed that custom on their periodic family trips to Jerusalem (Luke 2.40-42).

Jesus, however, was not acting mindlessly or lacking in purpose – even as a youth! When found in the temple courts with the scribes, the twelve-year-old Jesus said, “*I must be about My Father’s business*” (Luke 2.49). Literally, He was saying, “I must be in the things of My Father.” Mary and Joseph did not understand what He meant by this statement (v. 48), but the text goes on to tell us of Jesus’ development as a young man: “*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. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men*” (vs. 51-52).

Later in Luke’s gospel He said, “*I must preach the kingdom of God*” (4.43); “*The Son of Man must suffer many things*” (9.22); “*I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following*” (13.33); and “*all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me*” (24.44). Jesus knew what His life was about from an early age. His life was all about doing God’s will and fulfilling God’s purpose fully.

May none of us “go to church” mindlessly only to return to our own things. Do you go to worship God with passion and leave to live every day in the service of His eternal purpose? Remember, we must be about the Father’s business. How much does the need to fulfill God’s business direct your daily life? [BTW]