

MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

Request: This lesson came to me as a result of my study preparation for the youth of the 2007 SEYC camp.

This passage is important in the study of the life of Jesus Christ because it mentions an age of twelve. Twelve was usually the rite of passage into preparation for adulthood responsibilities.

At age thirteen, the Hebrew male began his preparation for some business leadership training.

If he was the firstborn, he was brought into the father's business. He would sit and learn and engage in business discussions with the elders of the business.

The other children of the family would be given training in their craft and later would be given their share of the family inheritance and start in life. We learn this from the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15; 12:13; Deut.21:17) [double portion to firstborn].

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

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| • Feast of Passover | (Lk.41-43) | Shadow Christology |
| • Found in the Temple | (Lk.44-47) | Separated |
| • Father's business | (Lk.48-51) | Salvation not carpentry |
| • Favor with God and men | (Lk.52) | Spiritual growth maturity |

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of My Father's Business.

- 1. At the age of 12, Jesus was ready for His rite of passage regarding His Father's business. At 13, the Jewish male entered adult status.**

He may have overheard Mary and Joseph discussing bringing Jesus into the family business of carpentry after they returned home from this year's Passover.

In Nazareth, Jesus was identified with Joseph's carpentry business in Mark 6:1-6 – “Isn’t this the carpenter?” Matt.13:55 refers to Jesus as the “carpenter’s son.”

- 2. At this Passover, Jesus broke the news to Mary and Joseph that He would not be pursuing Joseph's business of carpentry but God's business of salvation of the world (1 Tim.1:15).**

Note how Jesus made a point of contrast to Mary's question, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.” (2:48)

Jesus responded, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?” (Luke 2:49)

Jesus was not disrespectful or rebellious towards His earthly parents. God made this point when he said, “And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them.” (2:51)

3. Like me, you may have thought that, of all people, Mary and Joseph would have understood this statement, but:

“And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.” (Lk.2:50)

Yet they had experienced at least these nine dramatic and miraculous events.

- Visit of Gabriel to Mary with messianic news (Lk.1:26-33).
- Gabriel explained the virgin conception (Lk. 1:34-38).
- The leaping of the two babies and Holy Spirit’s declaration (Lk.1:39-45).
- Mary’s specially inspired messianic hymn (Lk.1:46-56).
- Special visit of the temple shepherds and Star at the birth of Jesus (Lk.2:1-20).
- Simeon and Anna’s messianic prophecies at the presentation of Jesus at the temple (Lk.2:21-38).
- The visit of the Magi and the Star from the East with treasures (Matt.2:1-12).
- The killing of all the children 2 and under in Bethlehem by Herod (Matt.2:16-18).
- The escaping to Egypt with Jesus until Herod died (Matt.2:19-23).

But this Passover became a very special event for Mary to treasure about her son Jesus: “And His mother treasured all these things in her heart.” (Lk.2:51b)

4. What was the Father’s business that Jesus had chosen as His rite of passage for training?

“But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”
(Gal.4:4-5)

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.” (1 Tim.1:15)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

“Let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by this name this man stands here before you in good health.” (Acts 4:10)

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12; Rom.8:15-17; 2 Cor.5:18-21)

5. The rite of passage into the responsibility of the training for His Father’s business is stated in the last verse of our lesson text.

“And Jesus kept increasing (prokopto / impf.a.ind) in wisdom (sophia) and stature (helikia), and in favor (charis) with God and men.” (Lk.2:51) Note the three areas of results of spiritual growth.

It was important to the Father that Jesus Christ kept pace in His spiritual growth of in the word of God in regard to His business of salvation. This will be a process from the age of 12 to 30 (Luke 2:42; 3:23).

“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Heb.5:14; Matt.4:1-11)

PRINCIPLE: As Christians, we must be spiritually prepared for our heavenly Father’s business of salvation.