**Luke 2:40-52 (ESV)**

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. **41** Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. **43** And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, **44** but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, **45** and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. **46** After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. **48** And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” **49** And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” **50** And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. **51** And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**“A Truly Wise King”**

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, amen. My folks never fail to send the gift of a desk calendar for the New Year. 2014 looks to be year littered with daily quotes coming from the Duck Dynasty Family. Since the Gospel deals with parents and their child, here are some suitable words to share from the calendar on January 3rd. “At the dinner table we learned to respect our elders. In a lot of homes, the kids made their plates first…At our house, the kids always ate last. We would get what was left after the adults made their plates…But we learned to be thankful and content with what we had and that the world didn’t revolve around us.” Such a lesson on respect challenges modern day views about parenting between and children.

Of course, King Solomon is wiser than any family we can find today. His words on life come from the book of Proverbs. For instance, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). We always look for advice for daily life, but Mary and Joseph were beside themselves with Jesus. Rather than his parents teaching him respect and how the world did not revolve around children. Jesus taught respect for His Father and how salvation of a sinful world revolved around His Son. He broke the mold of Solomon and the wisdom of man in any age. The key verse sticks out, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” The boy born of the Virgin Mary is wisdom not of man, but of Him who is God. The true king of wisdom rules for us with redeeming love to have life in His Name.

1. **Jesus must be in His father’s house because Wisdom reigns above man.**
2. Mary and Joseph understood the place God had in their family.
3. It meant going to the temple at a time like Passover. Jesus followed the “custom” laid out by His parents. They followed God’s Word.
4. “You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time… for in it you came out of Egypt...” Ex 23:15
5. Yet, the catch came after they left. “…The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.”
6. What scared his parents proved to be a sacred proclamation for God’s Son.
7. The fourth commandment is not the first, second, or third.
8. Wisdom for parents and other authorities comes from the second table of the Law.
9. There is a physical family where children submit for benefits in this life.
10. Jesus reveals staying behind at the temple is wisdom from the 1st table of the Law.
11. There is a spiritual family with children out of baptism born by God. St. Paul said, “In love God predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ” Ephesians 1:5
12. **Jesus must be in His father’s house because Wisdom worships what God says.**
13. Mary and Joseph searched for three days missing the place where God wisely puts His Word.
14. God was in His temple among the teachers!
15. They were shocked not from finding Him but how the Word was made flesh.
16. King Solomon asked for wisdom praying, “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”
17. The child Christ gave questions and answer later spoke to His accusers from the temple, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Matthew 26:55-56
18. Wisdom is not the same as raw information.
19. Plenty of discrediting goes on against what God’s says.
20. Worship of the mind without limitation is the curse that corrupts humanity’s quest exchanging truth for a lie.
21. The presence of God in our lives comes by worship of His Word.
22. Jesus prefers questions and answers, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:19-20
23. The king prayed for wisdom to remain for us against the darkness saying, “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” John 17:16-17
24. **Jesus must be in His Father’s house because Wisdom delivers the lost to look to Him.**
25. When questioned by His mother He gave the answer only God could give, “Why are you looking for me?”
26. Of course, Mary would know great distress not as a parent, but from the promise of God for a sinful world.
27. Simeon told her 12 years earlier, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also)…” Luke 2:34-35a
28. Jesus humbled Himself submitting to parents and other authorities, but finally by facing judgment by His Father on the cross.
29. Three days later God’s house had something to say. “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Luke 24:44
30. Looking to the wisdom of God is with Jesus saying, “My home is here in the Word and Sacrament, among my baptized washed by my Name, and in my ministry preaching, teaching and administering my gifts.”
31. The only text we have of Jesus’ youth and He is in the temple at Passover.
32. St. Paul tells us, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight…”
33. Wisdom of salvation leads to wisdom in life.
34. Luther states, “God’s Word must have precedence. After that is complied with, then we must do what is demanded by father, mother, emperor and king. Thus one does not put the cart before the horse.” (Postil Vol. 5 227)

Respect for parents and other authorities is reasonable, but respect for God is reason outside the hand of sinner able to deliver us from evil. The true king of wisdom rules with redeeming love for us to have life in His Name. Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.