

## Living Life to the Full... Luke 2:41-52

*Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and favour with people. Luke 2:52*



- Martin Isles (ACL Director) passes on 13 parenting tips from his parents who raised 5 children.. First tip: Ask for wisdom: . Judges 13:8 says, *“Oh Lord, please teach us what to do with the child that will be born.”* *“This is the prayer my parents prayed before each of us were born, to ask God how to rear each child. They emphasise the fact that the prayer says us”*
- Three of the KFBC family are lining up for VCE exams at the moment and two university students have exams + another has a final GP exam. May they have much knowledge and wisdom! May they and all of us keep growing in wisdom in our journey of life!
- The Bible does not tell us many details about the childhood of Jesus. Let’s look at what we do know and glean principles for guiding us as parents and local church in raising the next generation.

The Incarnation of \_\_\_\_\_ Philippians 2:6,7

*Though He (Jesus) was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, He gave up His divine privileges, He took the humble position of a servant and was born as a human being.*

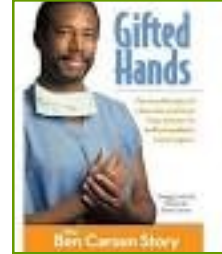
- Jesus - the eternal Son of God voluntarily took on flesh. He did not give up His deity to become a human but He gave up the privileges of deity—eg omniscience ....and had to learn and grow as we do.. Hence Luke 2:52... & Luke 2:40..
- Jesus is the wonderful example for all young & older people to follow. *This High Priest (Jesus Christ) of ours understands our weaknesses, tested as we are yet without sin..* Hebrews 4:15..He grew in a balanced way ( Luke 2:52 ) without neglecting any part of life, and His priority was to do the will of His Father (see Matt. 6:33 ). He knew how to listen ( Luke 2:46 ) and how to ask the right questions. He learned how to work and He was obedient to His parents.

Luke 2:52 summarizes some aspects of the childhood years of Jesus. Let’s examine further:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ vs 52

- “Wisdom” - σοφία — Jesus grew in mind, intellectually, knowledge and wisdom — wisdom is the wise application of knowledge, includes growing in an understanding of the world around Him. It means making wise decisions about morality and faith. We read Jesus confounds the learned teachers with His insight and questions. *Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers* Luke 2:47..
- Spiritual training for Jewish children began at a young age and was very intense because they were given great responsibility at a young age. Paul wrote to Timothy about how as a child, even as an infant, Timothy had been instructed in the Word by his mother (2 Timothy 3:15) Rabbi Judah ben Tema notes that Jewish boys should learn the Scripture at age 5,

- .....the Mishnah or Jewish law at age 10, and learn to fulfill all the law by age 13, and then they should learn the Talmud, the Jewish commentaries on the Old Testament at age 15. Many of the Jewish boys had learnt the Pentateuch off by heart by the age of 6!!
- Perhaps it is not by accident that of over 900 Nobel prizes presented over 22% of them have gone to Jewish people even though Jews are just 0.2% of the world's population!
- What do I need to learn? *"Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper."* Proverbs 19:8... Learn verses/parts of the Scripture off by heart.. Write some verses on memory cards .. Put them on fridges etc and constantly revise...
- Remember the Ben Carson story? - Gifted Hands—grade 5 “dummy”  
- Mum implemented a new domestic policy: “Watch just two pre-selected TV programs a week and read two books per week and give me a book review of each!”



*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed—μεταμορφουσθε - by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2...*

- Might we be transformers (in a Christ honouring way) and not conformers (to negatives) If the world controls our thinking we are a \_\_\_\_\_, if Jesus controls our thinking we can be a **transformer**—using our mind wisely and well.
- Paul is saying this involves a deliberate, conscious **choice**. When a thought comes into your mind, ask "Is this true, noble, lovely...?" If it's not—"change channels".
- Consider an ACL Leadership training course to help train young people for ministry in the public realm. Why leave the setting of government policy to mostly secular people??

So firstly Jesus grew in wisdom. Secondly, Jesus grew in ....

2. \_\_\_\_\_ vs 52

- Jesus grew in stature—physically.. Physical health matters to God. Our faith is not just a matter of the mind. We teach our kids that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies...* We all want our kids to develop healthy habits that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. That takes effort and personal discipline on the part of parents and others too. The path of least resistance leads to disaster—to unhealthy lifestyles..
- *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.* Romans 12:1.
- I purify my heart by committing my thought life to God & I sanctify my body by dedicating my physical body to God's purpose

- Our Creator wants us to take care of our bodies, not only because that's where we live but also because that's where He lives by His Holy Spirit (vs 19). We live in a fallen, broken world and diseases and accidents afflict us outside our control. But it is also true that many illnesses come upon us because of "lifestyle"... (Stephen Adams. "Obesity killing three times as many people as malnutrition" see "The Daniel Plan").
- If you love Jesus you are God's dwelling place on earth.. *For we are a temple of the living God*. 1 Corinthians 6:19.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ vs 52

- Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and also in favour with God. We can't just be concerned about health and education of children and neglect the spiritual.. Jesus grew in love of His Father. He grew spiritually and so we also must grow in our relationship with God through Christ
- *Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.* Mark 1:35.... *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 3:18

In following Jesus and growing in maturity in Him we find our:

\_\_\_\_\_ : Who I am in Christ

- *"If you only knew who I am, you would ask Me for some living water."* John 4:10  
Our identity is not in the position we hold or the titles we have but who we are in Jesus.
- We have been made by the Creator of the universe and we are loved with an everlasting love—Romans 5:8... we are esteemed incredibly highly. This should help overcome "low self esteem". We have been "gifted" by this same Creator.. 1 Peter 4:10
- We know who we are by knowing Whose we are—and knowing that God has given us specific gifts and calling. Spend time listening to our Creator..

*Our S.H.A.P.E. suggests a certain type of ministry*

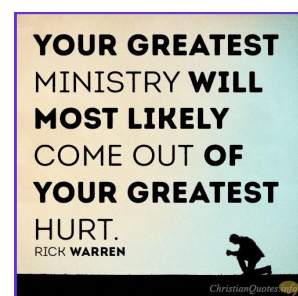
**Spiritual gifts...** 1Peter 4:10

**Heart...** The passions our Lord gives us..

**Abilities...** Skills and training I may have received

**Personality..** eg introverted—extroverted..

**Experience...** Gained from the journey of life. ... *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God...* 2 Corinthians 1:3,4.



#### 4. and favour with \_\_\_\_\_ Luke . 2:52

- Jesus grew in “favour” - χαριτι with people. We all want our children to grow up to be kind, compassionate, loving human beings. No right thinking parent wants to raise selfish, hateful, mean-tempered kids. If they turn out that way, we know who will hurt the worst.
- Children who relate in a healthy way will have healthy relationships, friendships.. We all need healthy relationships in the journey of life...A vital and “healthy” relationship with our Creator—first and foremost—and healthy relationships with people. We are not built to “go it alone”..
- These 4 aspects of growth of Luke 2:52 gives us ammunition for prayer.. What a joy to see many of our kids turn into young adults who are taking up the task of serving Jesus in their own special and unique way.
- Let’s learn some lessons from the parents of Jesus They made God’s Word the center of their family. Over and over again, the text tells how Mary and Joseph acted “*according to the law of Moses*” (Luke 2: 22) ... “*according to what is stated in the law of the Lord*” (v. 24). In verses 25-35 we read about Simeon’s prophetic praise of Jesus. This event occurred because the parents of Jesus had brought Jesus to the temple to perform what was *customary under the law* (v. 27). Verses 39 and 40 serve as a summary for this entire section. “*When they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God’s grace was on Him.*”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 “Listen, O Israel! (and all the people of the world) *The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.* 5 *And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.* 6 *And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.* 7 *Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.* 8 *Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.* 9 *Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*



The starting point with training is the parents. Moses said, “*you must commit your selves wholeheartedly to these commands*” vs 6.. Bible values need to be taught and “caught” ie by example too—example of dad and mum and other believers too.

3. Moral training is to take place during the \_\_\_\_\_ activities of the day vs 7.. In the car, bed time Bible stories for children, around the meal table.. family devotions... It is important that dad & mum lead together. Parents are primarily responsible.

Additional helps such as “The Parenting Course” & “GKGW” can be used. And of course the Church family is a wonderful support—with Sunday School, Youth groups and inter-generational church services—mentoring etc. Let’s keep growing in “*in wisdom, stature, favour with God and favour with people*” all the days of our lives...