

Jesus' Parents weren't Perfect. Relax.

Luke 2:41-52

Mother's Day prayer. Mother's Day is hard for some people. We want to acknowledge that. Being a mother is hard, but it can be fun and fulfilling. Perhaps being a mother is hard because it is so important. Today is a day when we celebrate mothers.

In Kevin Durant's 2014 MVP speech: He said to his mother: "You the real MVP."

Mom's don't always feel like the real MVP because it can be hard:

A mother decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to her lesson on avoiding vices. Thus, four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a jar of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a jar of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a jar of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a jar of good clean soil.

At the end of the day the mother showed her son the following results:

The first worm in alcohol – Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke – Dead.

Third worm in chocolate syrup – Dead.

Fourth worm in good clean soil – Alive.

So the Mother asked her son – What can you learn from this demonstration?

The little boy said, "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

Being a parent is not easy, but it is important. Mary and Joseph were not perfect, but they did a lot of things right. There are some things we can learn from them.

### **3. Teach Scripture in the home.**

Jesus knew a lot of Scripture. He quoted Scripture frequently.

Jesus quoted from the Old Testament at least 78 times. He quoted from memory – He didn't have notes. He quoted from each of the first five books – the Pentateuch. He quoted from Psalms the most – and He quoted from seven other books. Jesus was very familiar with the Scriptures.

Jesus knew a lot by age 12 because even the Jewish leaders were amazed at His questions and His answers. Apparently learning the Bible was a priority in Jesus' home.

A mother describes a time when she learned a powerful lesson: When her son was in the fifth grade, he was given a two-week assignment to memorize part of the Declaration of Independence. His mother drilled him diligently, printing words onto cards and taping them around the house, even to the headboard of his bed. They reviewed the project morning and evening, and by the end of the period, everyone in the family knew the assignment perfectly.

At the same time, the boy had been given a memory verse to learn for his Sunday School class. But his mother waited until the following Sunday morning, as they drove to church, to cram the

verse into his brain. The next day in her quiet time she read Deuteronomy 6:7— *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

The mother realized she had done that with memorizing part of the Declaration of Independence, but not with memorizing the Bible verse.

Parents, you have been forced to teach your children at home during this crisis. What have you learned? You've gained a new appreciation for teachers. Hopefully you have learned that you can teach your children and they can learn. You have learned that it is hard work.

Luke 2:52 *And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

The word translated “increasing” means advancing – as in he kept cutting his way forward as through a forest or jungle as pioneers did. [A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol. 2, p. 35]

Jesus worked hard to learn. Learning is work, but it can also be fun. I think you will find learning Scripture is fun – it takes work but it is worth it. Teach your children the Bible.

## **2. Teach your children to not allow fear to dominate their lives.**

God cared for Mary & Joseph. They were given a difficult task. Mary became pregnant before she was married. This was a unique pregnancy, an angel appeared to Mary and Joseph to explain it to each of them, but an angel did not appear to anyone else to explain it. There were questions about the legitimacy of Jesus' birth. That did not stop Mary and Joseph from returning to Nazareth from Egypt. The family was not afraid of the opinions of others.

Mary and Joseph were poor, but they always had enough. The gifts of the Wise Men no doubt sustained Jesus' family when they had to flee to Egypt before Herod ordered all the baby boys in the region of Bethlehem be killed. God always provided for them. Joseph worked. Jesus worked. God provides monetarily through our work.

Jesus was not fearful. He strongly opposed those who opposed God, even though they had the power to take His life. Jesus stood up for the outcasts when that was not popular. When it came time to go to Jerusalem for the last time, Luke says, “Jesus resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem.” When God revealed the depth of the pain both physically and spiritually that Jesus would endure on the cross, He voluntarily went to the cross anyway.

Jesus learned to face His fears and not allow fear to dominate His life. He did not allow fear to keep Him from doing the right thing. It is not that we are never afraid. It is that we don't allow fear to control our lives.

F. W. Boreham, who grew up in a Christian home in England, tells this story:

We boys had a dim consciousness that things were going [poorly] with father and mother. He looked anxious and worried; her eyes were often red and swollen. Then one day [a] newly framed text made its appearance on the wall. It was as if the weather had cleared up; the fog had lifted; father and mother were happier. We mustered courage to ask some explanation.

[Mother said:] “You know your father and I had a great trouble, and we feared a much heavier one. On Tuesday of last week I had to [stop] my work [at home], pick up the baby, and walk up and down the kitchen feeling I could endure it no longer. In pacing up and down I paused in front of the sheet-almanac on the wall. The only thing I saw was the text in the corner. It was as if someone had spoken the words: **“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”** I was so overcome I sat down and had a good cry; and then I began again with a fresh heart and trust. When father came home I told him about it, and he cut out the text with his penknife and hung it where you now see it.

As long as he lived, F. W. Boreham never forgot the power of that lesson. Children can learn that faith overcomes fear. God is faithful. We can trust Him!

### **3. Teach Your Children The Importance of Gathering**

*Luke 2:41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.*

Mary and Joseph sacrificed to go to Jerusalem for Passover every year. Jewish men were required to go, but Mary was not, but it was important to her, too, so she went. We see Jesus’ family committed to gathering for worship.

Jesus first sermon was in the Synagogue. It was an important place to Him.

*Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

What does this passage say:

1. We must hold fast to our faith without wavering. How are you doing?
2. We must encourage one another. Who have you encouraged lately?  
Encouraging others will encourage you.
3. Do not forsake the assembling together

**Video church is convenient. It must not become the new normal.**

Make coming to church a priority in your home. What is your habit?

What if the new normal became coming to church a priority?

What if you didn’t do certain things that kept you from coming to church?

*and all the more as you see the day drawing near.* What day?

### **4. Teach Your Children Stand Firm**

There is coming a day when church will either be unpopular or illegal.

Are your children going to be prepared for that?

How do you prepare them for that? Model it.

Your child’s faith must become his own.

Challenge them with what they believe and why.

Your son is not here by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed him and made him the special person he is. God compares him to no one else -- he is one of a kind. Your son will lack nothing that God's grace can't give him. God has allowed your son to be here at this time in history to fulfill God's special purpose for this generation. -- Roy Lessin

This generation is crucial. There is a great falling away from the faith. Who will stand firm? Who will be left standing when Jesus comes again?

Teach your children to stand firm when it is not popular.

## **5. There is grace when parents fail.**

Mary & Joseph left Jesus in Jerusalem. There was a caravan of family and friends. Usually the women walked ahead and the men followed. I'm sure Joseph thought Jesus was with Mary and Mary thought Jesus was with Joseph. At the end of the first day, they realized Jesus was not there. They searched and could not find Him. It took another day to travel back. They found Jesus at the Temple.

*Luke 2:48-50 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.*

Mary and Joseph were amazed at Jesus' questions and answers. They gained new insight into their son. Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you! Can't you hear Mary's mother heart here?

Notice Jesus' answer: Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house.

Note the contrast between your father and I were worried -- speaking about Joseph as father and Jesus' answer that He must be in My Father's house. Not our Father's house, but My Father. Jesus understood His unique relationship with God. Jesus' often used the word "must." We are not sure how much Jesus knew at age 12, but Jesus understood His unique relationship as the Son of God, and as the Messiah.

Mary and Joseph did not fully understand. Human parents are limited. We don't always understand. We make mistakes. There is grace when we fail as parents. There is grace when we fail as children. God loves your children and He is looking out for them.

*Luke 2:51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

Jesus is 12. He is on the cusp of becoming a teenager, and in Jewish eyes, he is entering adulthood. At a time when American teenagers are known for rebellion, Jesus continued in subjection to His parents. If ever there was a teenager that knew more than his parents, it would be Jesus, but He continued in subjection -- He obeyed, honored, and respected His parents. Teenagers do not have to rebel.

Parenting is hard. It is hard because it is so important. Rules without relationship leads to rebellion. Invest in your relationship with your children. Lead them, guide them in their walk with the Lord.

God will help you do the things we have discussed today. The best thing a parent can do is to lead their child to faith in Christ. Look for ways to talk about the gospel with your child.

This is Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup> Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; <sup>43</sup> and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, <sup>44</sup> but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. <sup>46</sup> Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. <sup>48</sup> When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. <sup>51</sup> And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.