

“Left Behind!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. “Prayer goes by faith into the **great orchard** of God’s exceeding great and precious promises, and with hand and heart picks the **ripest** and **richest** fruit.” E. M. Bounds [Pray]
- 1.2. Q: What do I do if I’m left to **live alone** as a widow?
- 1.3. Q: How do I handle the situation if I **lost my child**?
- 1.4. Q: Why isn’t anything said about **Jesus’ childhood years**? [There is!]
 - 1.4.1. The silence is broken **only by** this passage in Luke’s account.
 - 1.4.2. Luke provides a **kind of bridge** between events connected w/His birth & the account of His adult ministry.

2. **TEMPLE DWELLER! (36-38)**

- 2.1. **ANA, TEMPLE DWELLER!** (36-38)
- 2.2. (36) A widow after 7 years of married life. Now, 84 yrs old.
 - 2.2.1. What a very long widowhood!
 - 2.2.1.1. In her loss of **human** fellowship she waited much on **God!**
 - 2.2.1.2. The Lord will bring **healing** to the wounded soul; **companionship** to the lonely hour; & send you forth with blessings.
 - 2.2.2. **Old age** has its offerings just as **youth & prime** has theirs!
- 2.3. (37,38) A Temple Devotee!
 - 2.3.1. She **served; fasted; prayed; gave thanks; spoke of Him!**
 - 2.3.2. **Pray!** – Too many of our prayers are like playing “*ding-dong-ditch*” on God’s door!
- 2.4. Listen to a prayer by Robert E. Lee – “Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray—to really pray. Let there be prayer at sunup, at noonday, at sundown, at midnight—all through the day. Let us all pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes. Let us pray for our churches. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word ‘concern’ out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.”
- 2.5. (38) **Holy Expectation!** – all those who looked for the redemption.

3. JESUS, THE BOY! (39-52)

- 3.1. Now, we've tracked Jesus' life from pre-natal stories to toddler hood. Now we trace Jesus' life: from *Babyhood to Boyhood*; from *Boyhood to Bar mitzvah*; from *Bar mitzvah to Manhood*.
- 3.1.1. It is **only Luke** that gives us a **brief**, but **adequate & valuable** record of Jesus, from babyhood to manhood.
- 3.2. **FROM BABYHOOD TO BOYHOOD!** (39,40)
- 3.3. (39) **Nazareth** – a village in Galilee, quiet, insignificant, rural, & also notorious for *rudeness & wickedness*.
- 3.3.1. Nazareth was not an easy place for a lad to grow up.
- 3.3.2. **Q: Plants do better as house plants, or in a greenhouse?**
- 3.3.2.1. They may grow faster, but aren't necessarily more healthy.
- 3.3.3. **It's the same with children. Germs** help build up their immune system. **Siblings** help them learn how to get along & share.
- 3.3.4. Ps.128:3 **"Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table."**
- 3.3.5. **So**, God places Jesus, not in a perfect palace, but in an average working class families home. Not in a city like *"Moorestown, NJ"* (voted #1 city in U.S. for 2005) but in Nazareth. Not in Tel Aviv's new **Hilton Suite** that goes for \$3000 a night, but in a humble home in Nazareth.
- 3.3.5.1. It was a **godly home** for they had **performed all things according to the Law!** – He would have attended village school connected w/synagogue.¹ [He could **read** 4:16; & **write** Jn.8:6]
- 3.3.6. **Q: Are you ok with obscurity, anonymity, secrecy?** Jesus was!
- 3.3.6.1. In all **Nature** there are great results from secret process!
- 3.3.6.1.1. [e.g. **precious stones; coal/diamonds; seeds**]
- 3.3.6.2. **Q: Did God place you for a time in obscurity?** [Dal Rae]
- 3.3.6.2.1. I think it is **terrible** what the church does when a **celebrity** comes to know Christ! [**immediately flung into the spotlight**] – [when a plant finally breaks the surface, do we yank it out of the ground to display it]
- 3.3.6.3. Jesus knew seclusion, confinement, routine, the narrow life!
- 3.4. (40) The story of His life?...**He grew!**
- 3.4.1. **Learning to walk, Learning to pick up things & put things down!**
- 3.4.2. As a baby He had baby knowledge; as a toddler, toddler knowledge; etc.- He knew more at age 30 when he started His ministry than he did at 12.
- 3.4.2.1. Never imperfect at any stage, but like a plant, **"from shoot to bud to flower to fruit,...perfect at each stage! - Jesus was perfect as babe, boy, youth, & man!"**²

¹ Outlines in Luke; Griffith Thomas; pg.62

- 3.4.3. He didn't come "**already full of wisdom**", but instead He was "**becoming full of wisdom**"(lit.)
- 3.4.3.1. Often, **Apocryphal literature** describes Him **full** of wisdom from babyhood up.
- 3.4.4. But in one place of the Apocrypha (*Ecclesiasticus*, aka *Sirach* **39:13**) there is a description of an **ideal child**, "Hearken unto me, ye holy children, and **bud forth** as a **rose** growing by the brook of the field: ¹⁴ And give ye a **sweet savour** as frankincense, and flourish as a **lily**, send forth a **smell**, and sing a song of praise, bless the Lord in all his works."³
- 3.4.4.1. Isaiah said, "For He shall grow up before Him as a **tender plant**, And as a root out of dry ground." (53:2) [also Is.35:1,2]
- 3.5. **FROM BOYHOOD TO BARMITZVAH!** (41-50)
- 3.6. **(41) Family Pilgrimages!**
- 3.6.1. **3 times** yearly required – Deut.16:16 "Three times a year all your **males shall appear before the LORD** your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles."
- 3.6.2. Three festivals, called pilgrimage festivals, required the participation of Israelite males at the sanctuary:
- 3.6.2.1. (1) **The Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread.**
- 3.6.2.2. (2) **The Feast of Weeks** (beg. of the wheat harvest).
- 3.6.2.3. (3) **The Feast of Booths** (when the harvest & produce were gathered in). [3 different seasons]
- 3.6.2.4. The whole family could go, but the males were **required**.
- 3.6.3. It was on such a pilgrimage that Hannah prayed for a baby boy.⁴
- 3.6.4. The **most famous** pilgrimage was when Joseph, Mary, & Jesus **did** their family pilgrimage.
- 3.6.4.1. We can only imagine how thrilling this trip was to this "7th grader", this "Jr. Higher", this "12 year old" ... Jesus!
- 3.6.4.1.1. He was going to "**His Fathers house**"!
- 3.6.4.2. Ps.27:4 "One **thing** I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple." ☺
- 3.6.5. On such pilgrimages. Kinsfolk's & acquaintances travel together in large groups, & the young people of the party are considered to be perfectly safe as long as they are with this group.

² Ibid; pg.64

³ *The Apocrypha : King James Version*. 1995 (Sir 39:13). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ 1 Sam.1:3

- 3.7. (43) **The Boy** – no longer “*the child*” (40).
- 3.7.1. **This is almost like His own Bar mitzvah!** – Whether he already passed through the ceremony in the synagogue at Nazareth, or maybe here, is precipitating His own?
- 3.7.1.1. **Bar(son) mitzvah**(commandment) = i.e. **son of the Law**.
3.7.1.1.1. The Jewish “coming of age”!
- 3.7.1.2. **When he went into the Temple His right of entry was that He went as a Son of the Law!**
- 3.7.1.3. Until that time a boy’s father & mother were responsible for him religiously.
- 3.7.1.4. **From that time he assumed responsibility Himself.**⁵
- 3.7.1.5. **Kelly & I love to watch the bar mitzvah’s at the Wailing Wall when we go to Israel.** [You should hear Kelly’s high pitch Jewish mama yell!]
- 3.8. (44) **Sought Him** – [a thorough & repeated action]
- 3.8.1. Lit. **“they searched up & down, back & forth, a thorough search & prolonged.”** (RWP)
- 3.9. (45) Imagine the flyers from Kidron’s Kinko’s, **“Missing Messiah!”**
- 3.10. (46,47) **Here is where we observe the truths: “like seeks like”; “Birds of a feather flock together”.**
- 3.11. He gained knowledge by **careful attention**, by asking **insightful questions**, & by **receiving instruction**.
- 3.11.1. **Asking questions was perfectly natural of every disciple.**
- 3.11.2. He obviously learned from Joseph, training at home was the norm.
3.11.2.1. And yet, they had never met a Boy like this before!
- 3.11.3. **This story seems to illustrate the truth of vs.40 & 52.**
- 3.12. **After 3 days** – They were a day’s journey away. It took them a day to get back, & found him on the 3rd day.
- 3.12.1. A day’s journey was 20-30 miles. With a company then only 10 m.
- 3.13. (48) **Note:** Mary’s anxious question & Jesus’ answer are the heart of the passage!
- 3.13.1. **Jesus revealed an awareness of His unique relationship w/His heavenly Father.**⁶
- 3.14. **Son** – This isn’t “**child** of vs.40; this isn’t the **Boy** of vs.43.
- 3.14.1. **Instead this is a different term, that is a tender Mother word!**
3.14.1.1. **It speaks of the child that she has borne.**

⁵ The Gospel According to Luke; Morgan; pg.44

⁶ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.12

- 3.14.2. Q: Where would you have been found?
 3.14.2.1. Oh, we also should be found in **God's House!**
- 3.15. **Anxiously** – Q: What was going through their minds?
 Q: Did they flashback to age 2, when Herod sought to kill Jesus, in the massacre of all male toddlers? – Q: Did they become prey to panic?
 3.15.1. Q: Can you relate to a situation in your life parents? [not too many parents can throw a stone at Joseph & Mary here]
- 3.16. Were they wrong for being “*anxious*”?
 3.16.1. Aren't we to be anxious for nothing? (Phil.4:6)
 3.16.2. No, this is a **different word**. Only Luke uses it (5 x's).
 3.16.3. Hear how Luke uses it later in ch. **16:24,25** [Tormented]
 3.16.4. Every normal parent feels this at some time or another!
- 3.17. (49) Here are the 1st recorded words of Jesus.
- 3.18. **I must** – He was obliged to the Father's will.
 3.18.1. Jesus expresses His sense of **relationship** to God, of **responsibility** to God, & of response to that responsibility.⁷
- 3.19. “Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?” (NIV)
 3.19.1. Lit. “*I must be in the things of the Father of me.*”
 3.19.2. Q: Are you about your Father's business?
 3.19.3. Q: He knew His special mission, do you know yours?
- 3.20. **Note contrast** in *Your father* vs. *My Father!*
 3.20.1. Clearly he knew **who** He was & **what** He was!
 3.20.2. We do not know how he became conscious of His special relationship to God. [His **Self-knowledge**; **Messianic consciousness!**]
- 3.21. **FROM BAR MITZVAH TO MANHOOD!** (51,52)
- 3.22. (51) **He went down with them** – The ideal boy.
 3.22.1. He was **subject** to his parents. [same word as “**wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord**”]
 3.22.2. His **heavenly Sonship** didn't excuse him from his **earthly Sonship!**
 3.22.3. He had responsibility to the home in which he was brought up.
- 3.23. (52) **He increased** – (προκόπτω /prokopto)
 3.23.1. Dean Farrar, “The word used here is derived from pioneers, cutting down trees in the pathway of an advancing army.”
 3.23.2. Thayer, “means to lengthen out by hammering as a smith forges metals.”

⁷ Ibid; pg.45

- 3.23.3. The meaning then is “*to chop forward, to beat forward, to hack on.*”
 3.23.3.1. The idea then is **strenuous activity** rather than passive development.
- 3.23.4. He lived in all the years of development, maintaining His fellowship with God, & his fellowship with men; by the side of God, & by the side of (*with*) men.
- 3.24. **Jesus perfectly balanced** – at 12 & throughout life.
- 3.24.1. **Wisdom – Intellectually!**
- 3.24.2. **Stature – Physically!**
- 3.24.3. **Favor with God – Spiritually!** [He both communed personally w/His Father; & never forsook the gathering together of the brethren!]
- 3.24.4. **Favor with men – Socially!** [**Character** is what we are; **Reputation** is what others think of us] – Both must be in line w/Christian profession.
- 3.24.4.1. Acts 6:3 “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of **good reputation**, full of the **Holy Spirit** and **wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business;”
- 3.24.4.2. 1 Tim.3:7 “Moreover he must have a **good testimony** among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”
- 3.25. So we learn of Jesus growth *from Babyhood to Boyhood; from Boyhood to Bar mitzvah; from Bar mitzvah to Manhood.*
- 3.25.1. He is still the greatest example for childhood & youth!
- 3.25.2. **Then** for 18 years “increasing”.
- 3.25.2.1. In His next narrative(ch.4) He is 30 years of age(3:23).
- 3.25.3. Wow, **what was it like to wait “18 more years” when the world was going to hell in a hand basket?** [Waiting]
- 3.25.3.1. **Q: Might God make you wait also?** (For a **mate**? For a **job**? For an **answer**? To start a **ministry**?)
- 3.25.4. **Jesus** waits 30 years!...Can **we** wait 30 weeks? 30 days? 30 minutes? 30 seconds?