(15) Childhood of Jesus (Lk. 2:40,51)

(16) 12 year old Jesus Visits the Temple (Lk. 2:41-50)

(17) Summary of Jesus’ Growth to Adulthood (Lk. 2:51-52)

1. Having “emptied Himself” (Phil. 2:7), the mortal humanity of Jesus required growth (Lk. 2:40,52).
   a. The κένωσις kenosis of Jesus Christ means that He voluntarily laid aside His privileges (NASB margin).
      1) God the Son’s Immutability does not allow Him to stop being Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, etc.
      2) God the Son’s Sovereignty allows Him to stop exercising His divine power.
   b. By not exercising Omnipresence, God the Son required His activity within space and time to be limited to a mortal human body’s operation within space and time.
   c. By not exercising Omniscience, God the Son required the mortal humanity of Jesus’ mind to learn.
   d. By not exercising Omnipotence, God the Son required the mortal humanity of Jesus’ body to grow.

2. God the Father bestowed a particular Grace upon the mortal humanity of Jesus Christ during His childhood.

   And the little child kept on growing and kept on increasing in strength, being constantly suffused with wisdom. (Wuest)

3. Joseph & Mary faithfully raised their family under the requirements of the Mosaic Law (Lk. 2:41ff.).
   a. This particular Passover pilgrimage was unique among all the annual pilgrimages that their family ever undertook.
   b. This Passover would be the last time Jesus of Nazareth would attend as a child. The Jewish boy was recognized as entering manhood at thirteen years of age. At that time, he became a “son of the Law,” and was qualified to constitute a synagogue. (Ralph Gower, New Manners and Customs of Bible Times)

4. The unusual event on this occasion actually occurred at the conclusion of the Passover week (Lk. 2:43).
   a. Joseph & Mary returned to Nazareth in a caravan of relatives and acquaintances (Lk. 2:44).
   b. The boy (ὁ παῖς ho pais #3816 24x) Jesus remained (ὑπομένω hupomen #5278 17x). to stay in a place beyond an expected point of time, remain/stay (behind) while others go away (Lk. 2:43; Acts 17:14).
      1) Sitting in the midst of the teachers. No mention of any other students.
      2) Listening (ἀκούω akou #191 427x) to the teachers’ instruction, and asking them questions (ἐπερωτάω eper #1905 56x).
      3) Understanding (σύνεσις suxesis #4907 7x), and giving answers (ἀπόκρισις apokrisis #612 4x).
      4) The temple teachers were amazed (ἐξίστημι existem #1839 17x). to lose one’s mind, be out of one’s senses (Mk. 3:21; 2nd Cor. 5:13).
   c. Joseph & Mary were ignorant of Jesus’ activity.
      1) They were unaware of His absence (Lk. 2:43). οὐκ ἐγνώσαν ouk egnosan #1097 222x.
      2) They supposed He was in the caravan (Lk. 2:44). νομίζω nomiz #3543 15x: to think. To form an idea about something, but with some suggestion of tentativeness or refraining from a definitive statement: think, believe, hold, consider.
      3) They were astonished to see Him in the middle of the temple teachers (Lk. 2:48). Aor.pass.ind. ἐκπλήσσω ekplesso #1605 13x: be amazed, overwhelmed (Matt. 7:28; 13:54; 19:25; 22:33; Mk. 1:22; 6:2; 7:37; 10:26; 11:18; Lk. 2:48; 4:32; 9:43; Acts 13:12).
4) Did not understand (Lk. 2:49,50).
   a) Know. 2pl.pluperfect.act.ind. οἶδα oida #1492.
   b) Understand. aor.act.ind. συνίημι suniēmi #4920.

d. Jesus comprehended the necessity of His obedient service to God the Father (Lk. 2:49).
   1) Joseph & Mary did not have the same understanding (Lk. 2:50).
   2) Taking this into consideration, Jesus understood that the time was not yet appropriate for Him to step out of his parents’ jurisdiction (Lk. 2:51).

5. Jesus was continuously growing in the sight of God and man (Lk. 2:52).