

A Nurturing Environment

- * At this point Jesus is 12 years old; one year before his 'bar mitzvah' to become a 'son of the law'
- * The family is following the Torah where all of life is shaped by their faith – an environment of piety – no division between private and secular

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

Psalms 71:5-6

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come. Your power and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens.

Psalms 71:17-19

A Framework for Us

- i. A wholistic faith: less division between secular and religious sectors (Romans 12:1-2)
- ii. Parents responsibility to nurture children's faith: an intentional modelling

II. A Quest Shaped by Wisdom

Jesus' Quest

- * Jesus stays behind after the festival ends on a quest to know God more (v43)
- * Luke tells us that he sits with the religious leaders 'asking and answering questions' (v46-47)

Jesus' Enquiring Mind

- * Rabbinic style of learning through the use of questions
- * An emerging sense of self for Jesus

The Precociousness of Jesus

- * All are amazed at his knowledge (v47)
- * There is a hunger in Jesus to know God
- * We note the use of 'wisdom' two times (v40,52) as it frames the story


Waiting in Advent

- * The hunger to know God speaks to the 'waiting' and desire for God seen in Advent
- * To wait upon God for his coming – not to get lost in the trivial
- * It speaks of our deepest yearnings (Philipians 3:10)

"The thing is to understand myself, to see what God wishes me to do; the thing is to find a truth which is true for me, to find the idea for which I can live and die" (Kierkegaard). To find an idea, a cause, a purpose around which I can construct a life.

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III. A Quest Shaped by Relationship

- * After 3 days Jesus is found in the temple by his parents 
- * Mary scolds Jesus (v48) – we have been so anxious for you; your father and I have been anxious

Jesus' Response



- * "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (v49) – about my Father's interests
- * Jesus growing awareness of a relationship with the Father

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- * What we see is Jesus himself claiming a relationship with God
 - * Before others spoke – angels, magi, shepherds, Simeon/Anna
 - * Now Jesus speaks for himself about the Father


Two Observations




I. Tension is created concerning Jesus' quest


- His parents do not understand (seen later also in Mark 3:33-34)
- His choice creates a crisis in the family – the crisis of belief
- Simeon's prophecy: "For the falling and rising of many"

II. Jesus returns home with his parents in obedience (submission)



- A sign of humility, littleness
- He went down to Nazareth

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- * Our quest for God may feel routine or unspectacular
 - * The quest for God continues even in hiddenness

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- * Advent is about our call; our invitation to worship God – to know him better even as Jesus modelled

We are invited to
embark on a quest:



"Wins and losses don't matter;
all that matters is following
the quest."