

Luke 2:41-52 – “A Mom’s Treasured Memory”, June 13, 2021

I. Welcome

- A. Good morning church family, Ohaiyogozaimasu! It's great to be here with you all as we gather to worship our Lord and hear from Him.
 1. *Welcome any new people and those who may be streaming content.*
- B. At this time, let's go ahead and dismiss our little ones to their Sunday School classrooms.
- C. Well, for the rest of us, we are going to continue our march through the gospel of Luke picking up where we left off last week in chapter 2.
 1. So, if you have your Bible with you this morning, please go ahead and open up to the gospel of Luke chapter 2.
 2. Our text this morning is going to be Luke chapter 2 verses 41-52 as we look to complete our study of chapter 2. The title of our message this morning is going to be "**A Mom’s Treasured Memory**".
- D. Is everyone there in Luke chapter 2? Once you are, I'd like to invite you to rise to your feet in honor of God and His Word.
 1. I'm going to read our text from my Bible, which is a NKJV translation. If you are reading from a different translation I want to encourage you all to follow along as best as possible.
 2. Luke continues his account of the narrative of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ beginning in verse 41 with the following... (R & P).

II. Review and Intro

- A. As we've made our way verse by verse through the first two chapters of Luke's gospel we've been given great

details about certain events that took place that were rather private events.

1. Remember that Luke was not an eye-witness to the events of the life of Jesus Christ. He eventually would become a believer and joined up with Paul during his missionary endeavors. He became a trusted companion of Paul's and a great servant of the Lord.
 2. Presumably, he wasn't around for the years of Jesus' public ministry and he definitely wasn't around to witness and record the events that transpired during the events chronicled here in chapters 1 and 2 of his gospel account.
 3. We know that Luke was more like an investigative reporter, gathering facts from others who were there, and putting them together to create a thorough and accurate report of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ to one Theophilus who is mentioned at the beginning of his account.
- B. In the first two chapters we are given details about private conversations that happened between angelic beings and individual people. Obviously, Luke had to have gathered these accounts from those who experienced the account or at least from those who were very familiar with the account.
1. Luke knew about the conversation that was had between Gabriel the angel and Zacharias the priest and father of John the Baptist.
 2. He also knew about the visit and message the same angel Gabriel delivered to Mary about her finding favor with the Lord and being with child of the Holy Spirit.
 3. He knew about Mary's visit to Elizabeth and Zacharias while Elizabeth was hiding herself for some five months.

4. He knew of the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth that occurred when Mary first arrived and Zacharias' and Elizabeth's house.
 5. Luke knew the song of Mary that she sang in response to God's favor upon her.
 6. He knew of the details of Joseph and Mary's travel and what happened as Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ.
 7. He knew of the shepherds and the angel that visited them and declared to them the birth of their Savior.
- C. As we consider all the information that Luke had, the very detailed accounts, it seems obvious that Luke must have had a strong reliable source for this information.
1. Granted, we do trust that Luke was inspired by the Holy Spirit in the recording of this narrative. But I also am led to believe that Luke did his due diligence in seeking this information out for himself.
 2. As I consider who his source could have been, I think the obvious answer is none other than Mary, the mother of our Lord and Savior.
 3. Zacharias and Elizabeth were already well advanced in age when they had John the Baptist and the chances of them being around to recount these details to Luke is not very likely.
 4. Mary, on the other hand, is the only one that is specifically mentioned that we know was also there well after the crucifixion of Christ. She would have presumably been around later in the first century when Luke came around gathering up all his intel.
 - a. In chapter 1 we were told how all who heard about the events surrounding John the Baptist kept the sayings in their heart and wondered about what kind of child John would be. (**Lk. 1:66**)

- b. And we are told in Luke 2:19 that Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. When it came to Jesus' birth and the events surrounding it.
(Lk. 2:19)
 - c. And in our text this morning again we read again how Mary "kept all these things in her heart" in verse 51.
 - 5. As we consider the fact that Luke mentions a couple of different times in these first chapters how Mary pondered these things in her heart and kept these memories deep within, it would only make sense that she is Luke's primary source for the details surrounding these early years of our Lord.
 - 6. Mary was told about Elizabeth's pregnancy by the angel Gabriel, she went and lived with Zacharias and Elizabeth for three months prior to the birth of John the Baptist.
 - a. And if Mary was to have any conversation whatsoever, it would have been with Elizabeth since Zacharias wasn't talking at the time.
 - b. No doubt Elizabeth shared all the details with Mary and Mary was able to share them with Luke.
 - 7. And of course she lived through many of the events surrounding Christ as she was there to watch him grow up right before her eyes.
- D. I envision the potential meeting between Luke and Mary and what that would have been like. I envision Luke sitting down and just soaking in all he could from this little old lady that had been through and witnessed so much of the life of Christ.
- 1. An interview with the very mother of Jesus Christ. I imagine him just gleaning as much as he could, soaking it all in.

2. Have you ever had the privilege of sitting down with someone and having them tell you something about history that they lived through and you are researching?
 - a. I remember as a kid, I had the privilege of sitting down and talking with my Uncle Harry about his time in Vietnam when he was in the Army.
 - b. I had to write a research paper about the Vietnam War and was encouraged to seek out someone that had firsthand experiences they were willing to share.
 - c. And while I could tell there were many things that my uncle didn't want to talk about, the very fact that he felt that way told me so much about what the war was like. It was such a difficult time for so many.
 3. Maybe you've got an older grandparent or great aunt or uncle that lived through some crazy times and you've had the pleasure of just sitting down and listening to them continue on about what life was like for them growing up.
 4. So much to be learned, so much to be gleaned from. This is how I imagine it was for Luke when he sat down with Mary to have her share all these things that she had kept and treasured in her own heart.
- E. In our text this morning we are given a small glimpse into an event that transpired when Jesus was 12 years old.
1. I can almost envision Luke sitting down and asking Mary, "Can you tell me anything about Jesus and what he was like as a youth?" "Do you have a favorite story of yours that captures really the heart of Jesus and what He was all about as a young child growing up?"
 2. The details we have in our text are only found here in Luke's gospel. No other gospel writer, or any other NT

book for that matter, gives us any details about the life of Jesus as a youth. This is all we have.

3. I feel like what we have before us is a “Mom’s Treasured Memory” of an account that stood out to her about the life of Jesus as a youth.
4. So, let’s jump in and see if we can’t notice for ourselves certain elements of this account that stand out and perhaps why they stuck with Mary so prevalently and why Luke recorded it in his detailed account.

F. We’ll start by looking at the setting that is described in the opening verses of our account. Take a look at verses 41 and 42 as Luke begins to set the scene.

III. Luke 2:41-42;

A. In these opening verses we are told about a family trip that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, along with many other family members and acquaintances, went upon during a very special time of the year.

1. The Bible required that every male travel to Jerusalem three times a year to take part in three of the seven Biblical feasts of the Jewish calendar; these feasts were commonly referred to as the pilgrimage feasts.
2. The book of Deuteronomy makes it clear stating “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; and they shall not appear before the Lord emptyhanded.” (**Dt. 16:16**)
3. Here in our text, we are told that they were traveling because of the Feast of the Passover. Now the Passover was associated with the Feast of Unleavened Bread and is often referred to together as “the Feast of the Passover”.

- a. According to the book of Exodus when the Passover was instituted the Lord commanded that the Passover be kept as a feast to the Lord throughout the generations of the Jews. (**Ex. 12:14**)
 - b. The Passover was to be immediately followed by seven days of eating unleavened bread. So, the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” really kicks off with the Passover memorial. (**Ex. 12:15**)
- B. Now it was customary during these days to travel in large groups for these pilgrimage feasts. This was done for a couple of reasons.
1. Number 1, it was simply safer to travel in a large group rather than a small one or by yourself.
 - a. Roads during the first century were notorious for robbers and bandits that would take advantage of weary travelers going from place to place.
 - b. Traveling in a large group would detour any unwelcome guests from attacking you during your travel.
 2. Number 2, it was much easier to share resources within a group than it was for each to travel with their own separate gear.
 - a. Instead of each family having a full set of cooking gear, you could share resources and help lighten the load.
 3. And number 3, it was a great time for families and friends to socialize together as they made their way to Jerusalem for the feasts.
 - a. The Jewish feasts were something to be celebrated amongst loved ones and it would be a special time for the families to get together and catch up and share stories, and interact with one another as they made their way to Jerusalem.

C. Well, let's continue on in our text and read about what happened on this particular trip to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old.

IV. Luke 2:43-45;

A. We aren't given any details of the family's time in Jerusalem during the Passover, but simply jump to the end of their time in Jerusalem when they had finished the celebration and started to make their way back home.

B. We're told that the boy Jesus lingered behind. Instead of leaving with the group, Jesus decided to stay behind in Jerusalem.

1. However, Joseph and Mary, his mother, didn't realize Jesus had done so and they started off on their way back home to Nazareth.
2. They assumed Jesus was somewhere within their large traveling group and didn't realize he wasn't there until they had completed a day's journey and went to set up camp for the night. That is when they realized that Jesus wasn't with them.
 - a. You see, it was customary for these large groups to travel in different waves. The women and children would often go ahead of the group up in front while the men would carry up the rear.
 - b. As a 12-year-old adolescent, Jesus could have been in either group. It's easy to believe that Joseph probably assumed that Jesus was with Mary while Mary probably assumed that Jesus was with Joseph.
 - c. Also, the kids would run around in different groups as well, playing along the way. We know that Jesus was from a large family, he was the eldest of at least seven kids as we have recorded for us in the

Scripture the names of four of Jesus' younger brothers and that he had multiple sisters. (**Mk. 6:3**)

- d. It would have been very easy for them to assume he was within the group even though neither Joseph nor Mary actually saw Him.
- 3. Wow. Some may read this and think, "Joseph and Mary were such horrible parents", but not me. When I read this account it makes me so happy and makes me feel so good.
 - a. Because even godly parents who love the Lord and who are highly favored by the Lord can make the mistake of losing track of their kids and accidentally leave one behind.
 - b. I'll never forget the day Farah and I left Jonah locked up in the church when we lived in Okinawa.
 - c. It had been another full day of ministry at church, two services, and fellowship that followed afterwards. Jonah was a toddler and he had fallen asleep in the back of the sanctuary while we were cleaning up and getting ready to go.
 - d. Farah and I often divided and conquered and would get different kids buckled into their car seats and squared away. We had Caleb and Ethan in the car, but neither of us bothered to grab Jonah assuming that the other had got him and buckled him in.
 - e. We locked up the church and headed home. We actually stopped along the way at the grocery store.
 - f. Farah got groceries and I waited in the car with what I thought was all the kids. Farah opened up the back and put the groceries in the car and then we headed home.
 - g. It wasn't until we got all the way home and went to unload the car seats that we realized Jonah's car

seat was empty. We couldn't believe it. We both looked at each other and were like "Didn't you get him?"

- h. We frantically jumped back in the car and started calling everyone we knew that lived close by the church that could at least go and make sure he was alright.
 - i. Of course we lived about 30 minutes from the church. Which made it all the worse trying to get back as fast as we could.
 - j. We did get in touch with Sonya Silva and she went down to the church even though she didn't have a key and was at least able to guard the door and listen for him.
 - k. By the time we arrived, Jonah had awoken and was at the back door of the church crying and banging on the door trying to get out. It was such a traumatizing event for all involved. He was ok. And Farah is only slightly mortified by me telling this story.
4. So, I can totally relate to this story. I know exactly what Joseph and Mary were feeling the moment they realized they had left their child behind.
- C. Now, Joseph and Mary do something that is really important. What do you do when you lose something? You retrace your steps and you go back to the place you last remember seeing it. This is what Joseph and Mary did.
- 1. When Joseph and Mary realized that Jesus wasn't anywhere to be found within their group, they traveled back to the last place they remember seeing him and made their way back to Jerusalem seeking after Him.
 - 2. I love the illustration this creates for us here. There are times in our lives, when we get busy, when we get

distracted, when life just happens, and we're perhaps caught up in a large group, just going along with the flow of things, and before we even realize it, we find ourselves in a place where we can no longer see Jesus like we once did. We've lost track of Him, we haven't seen or heard from Him in a while, and we've become distant from Him.

3. What are we to do when we find ourselves in situations like that? What are we to do when we come to the realization that we've distanced ourselves from the Lord and we no longer have that close relationship with Him?
4. We look back to where we were when we last remember being with the Lord. Where were we when we last felt close to the Lord?
 - a. We were in Bible study, we were in fellowship, we were in prayer, we were in worship, we were regularly attending church and we were telling others about Jesus. We need to get back to that place.
 - b. Like Jesus said to the church in Ephesus, "**I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...**" (**Rev. 2:4-5a**)
5. When we find that life has led us to a place that we are no longer close to the Lord, we no longer have that intimate relationship with Him, **we need to return back** to where we were when we did have that kind of relationship with the Lord. We need to get back to doing the first things we were doing when we were close to the Lord, on fire for Him.
6. This is what Joseph and Mary picture for us. When they realized that Jesus wasn't with them, they went back to the last place where they remembered being

with Him and frantically searched after Him, not being satisfied until they were reunited with Him.

7. We need to seek after the Lord with that same sort of intensity, that same sort of determination and not be satisfied with a distant relationship with the Lord.

D. Let's continue on in our account. Read with me verses 46-50

V. Luke 2:46-50;

A. After three days from when they had left him, Joseph and Mary once again were reunited with Jesus as they found him there in Jerusalem at the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers.

1. Jesus was listening to the rabbis and asking them questions and all who heard him speak were "astonished" at his understanding and answers, or your translation may read they were "amazed" at his understanding and answers.
 - a. The word in the Greek carries with it the idea of being so astonished as to almost fail to comprehend what one has experienced. We would say in today's language something to the effect of our minds being blown.
 - b. They were besides themselves, they could hardly believe what they were hearing as Jesus spoke with the rabbis.
 - c. Of course, this was just a foreshadowing of what was to come later on in Jesus' life when He started His public ministry.
 - i. Over and over again, as Jesus taught in the synagogues and shared His public sermons, the response was often the same, they were astonished at His teaching, "for He taught them as

one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (**Mt. 7:29**)

2. Well, the people standing by listening to him weren’t the only ones amazed, for when Joseph and Mary finally found him they too were amazed.
 - a. The wording in the Greek is actually different, but carries much the same idea of having your mind blown.
 - b. The Greek word literally means to be knocked out of your senses. It’s used here to show just how amazed and astonished Mary and Joseph were to find Jesus there in the temple.
- B. As Mary approached Jesus she declared to Him “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought you anxiously.” My translation, “What do you think you are doing? Your father and I have been searching everywhere for you. We’ve been worried sick!”
 1. There very much is a sense of rebuke in this response of Mary’s. Her and Joseph were besides themselves at what had happened, and they demanded an answer from Jesus.
 2. But Jesus’ response is very telling. He responds to Mary with two questions: “Why did you seek Me?” and “Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”
 3. Even at the age of 12 years old, Jesus was well aware of who His Father was. He knew that He was the Son of God. He knew that His mission was to be about His Father’s business, to be involved with the things of His Father.
 4. His response makes it seem like this was something that should have been known and understood. Certainly Joseph and Mary knew that Jesus was the

Son of God. Presumably they spoke about it before while growing up. What His life would be like as the Son of God and what God had planned for Him.

5. I think it is interesting that this takes place at the age of 12 years old. At the age of 12 male children begin rigorous training in the Scriptures to prepare for their 13th birthday.
 - a. Traditionally, at the age of 13, Jewish boys are seen as being responsible for their own selves when it comes to following the commands found within the law.
 - b. And so as they drew near to the age 13 they would spend a lot of time learning and studying the commandments found within the law. They would study and prepare for the time when they would be seen as fully responsible for upholding the righteous demands of the law.
 - c. Perhaps, this is why Jesus decided to stay longer in Jerusalem and to speak with the rabbis regarding the law of God.
 - d. Either way, we get the sense from Jesus that Mary and Joseph should have known where Jesus was going to be. Almost as if this had been spoken of before, or that this was the clear plan all along.
 - e. The response from Jesus was more like, “Where else would I be? This is where I am supposed to be. Didn’t you know that?”.
 - f. It’s a very interesting dialogue between Jesus and His parents, we can read into it perhaps too much and allow ourselves to be led into thinking that Jesus was being rude and disrespectful, but we know this not to be the case.

- i. For doing so would put him in violation of the 5thth commandment which states, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” (**Ex. 20:12**)
- ii. We know that Jesus was sinless and perfect, so I do not believe he was dishonoring his parents or being rude to them here in this place, it was simply a misunderstanding that we probably don’t have all the details about.
- iii. We do know that it states that they didn’t understand what Jesus was saying, so obviously there is some sort of misunderstanding here taking place.

C. But the thing that I want to draw our attention to are the words that Jesus said. These are in fact, the earliest recorded words of Jesus Christ. The first recorded words of the Lord are these words he spoke at 12 years old.

- 1. And the emphasis of His words was all based upon His mission. What He must do. Jesus understood that there were certain things that He must do.
- 2. Here we read that He must be about His Father’s business.
 - a. Later in Luke we read Him say, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.” (**Lk. 4:43**)
 - b. He would also say, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.” (**Lk. 9:22**)
 - c. Jesus had to make a lot of choices and decisions day by day, but there were certain things in his life

that were non-negotiables. They were musts for Him.

- d. Jesus must be about His Father's business, He must preach the gospel, and He must suffer and die for us on Calvary. These were things He had to do, these were the things that God had called Him to do, these things were the very purpose of His life, they are why He came in the first place.
- 3. As I was looking up all the different times the word must is used in connection to Jesus, I also came across a few things that are connected to us and what we must be about.
 - a. In John chapter 3, Jesus said, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" (**Jn 3:7**)
 - b. A chapter later in John 4, Jesus said, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (**Jn. 4:23-24**)
 - c. In the book of Acts, Paul would spread the message of the gospel to the Gentiles and would remind them, exhorting them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." (**Acts 14:22**)
- 4. You see, just as Jesus had a specific purpose and plan for Jesus, things that He must do, so too God has certain things for us that we must do.
 - a. We must be born again. We must come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. We must be born not only of the water, but of the Spirit as Jesus described in John chapter 3. We must be born again!

- b. And after we are born again, we must then become a worshipper of God that worships in Spirit and truth. God is seeking such people to worship Him in that manner. It is a must for us that we worship in Spirit and truth. Our worship needs to be led by the Spirit, but within the bounds of Scriptural truth.
 - c. And as we become genuine worshippers of the Lord and as we wait upon the Lord, we must patiently endure tribulations prior to entering the kingdom of God. It's isn't always going to be easy. We must go through tribulations, heartaches, pains, discomfort, persecution.
 - i. We will face all sorts of pressure from the outside trying to squeeze us into their own mold, but we must endure and persevere prior to entering into the kingdom with the Lord.
 - ii. Don't jump ship when things get hard. This is something we must all go through. It's part of God's plan for our lives. He's going to use those things, those seasons, those situations to prepare us for His kingdom to come.
5. There are many things in life we may want to do, and there are still other things that perhaps we ought to do or should do, but **there are a few things that we must do.**
- a. We need to make sure that we are taking care of the things we must do prior to the things we should do, or ought to do, or want to do.
 - b. It's a simple matter of priorities. What are the things in your life that you must do?
 - c. Jesus said you must be born again, He said you must worship Him in Spirit and in truth, and His Word tells us we must endure tribulations, tough times prior to entering His kingdom.

d. God has a plan for us, let's make sure we are being led by the Lord and that we are fulfilling all the things we must do, so that we can enjoy the most important thing; a close intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

D. Let's look at these final two verses and wrap this up.

VI. Luke 2:51-52;

A. Jesus departed the temple and the city of Jerusalem, returning with Joseph and Mary to Nazareth and He was subject to them.

1. The word translated “subject” in the Greek is primarily a military term. It speaks of being placed under rank, or to rank under someone.
2. Jesus willingly submitted Himself to the godly authority in His life. The scriptures instruct children to honor their mother and father, to obey them, to follow their leading and their instruction. And that is exactly what Jesus did.
3. Even though He was God in the flesh, He willingly submitted Himself under the God ordained leadership in His life; His parents.

B. And what was the result of that submission to His parents? Verse 52 tells us that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

1. Jesus was 100% God and at the same time 100% man. He grew and matured from a young child through his adolescent years and into a full grown adult. He increased in wisdom as a young man and matured in His walk with the Lord, He grew in favor.
2. All the while submitting Himself to the God ordained authorities in His life.
3. This is the last point I want to make today and it is a simple one. **Growth and maturity are the fruit of a submitted life.**

4. When we submit ourselves to the God ordained authorities in our lives, the natural byproduct will be growth, it will be maturity, and it will be favor with both God and men.
5. In today's world submission is seen as a bad word. It's portrayed as some horrible thing, an oppressive thing. But it really isn't meant to be that. If we will yield ourselves to the proper God ordained authorities in our lives, we will find that we will grow, we will mature, we will find favor.
6. That word favor in the Greek is the word "charis". It's more commonly translated as the English word "grace".
7. If you want to grow in the grace of God, if you want to experience more of the grace of God, then yield yourself to the godly authority in your life; yield yourself to the Lord, to His Word, to His Spirit, to the God ordained leadership around you. Be yielded and ready to receive and ready to grow and mature into all the Lord desires for you.

C.Let's pray.

VII. Conclusion / Announcement

- A.Before I dismiss you all, I have an important update to share with you regarding an upcoming building project we are hoping to complete.
- B.For several years now, we have struggled here in this building with our A/C system. With each summer comes several weeks of fighting with the A/C system trying to get it to work and stay on and provide for us a comfortable place to gather for worship, fellowship, and the study of God's Word.
- C.If you haven't noticed, Keegan and the ushers are constantly having to reset the system throughout the

service because it will only work for a few minutes and then kick off. We've had several different companies come out and look at repairing the system and they have all said the same.

- D. The system is too old and it simply needs to be replaced. We've waited and waited year by year praying it would work, but inevitably it begins to fail us during the hot summer months.
- E. We have received multiple quotes for A/C replacement and they are all about the same. The cost is going to be roughly \$30,000. The board is in agreement that we need to simply pull the trigger and get the A/C replaced.
- F. This is going to pretty much wipe out nearly all the church's savings, but we feel it is what needs to be done. After much discussion with the Board over the last several months, we do feel like this is what we need to do and we wanted to let the body know about the need.
- G. If you would be so inclined to give, in addition to your regular offering, an extra portion to help cover the expense of this project we would be very grateful.
- H. In connection with this project we are going to perhaps do a couple different fundraisers to help with the expenses. One that we are looking to launch today is connected with CustomInk website.
- I. We have put together a church t-shirt design that you can check out at the link shown in this slide. We will be sending this out on our social media sites, our website, and our email distribution as well.
- J. If you would like a Calvary Chapel Iwakuni t-shirt we are making them available for \$20. All the proceeds from the sales of the t-shirts will be given directly towards the A/C project.

- K. If you should have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the A/C project and our fundraising, please don't hesitate to come speak to myself or Pastor Nick for further information.
- L. We are hoping to get the A/C project complete very soon and are trusting the Lord to provide in ways we aren't even aware of. To God be all the glory. God bless!