

## THE CHERISHED

Luke 2: 47 *And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.*

Joseph and Mary participated in all the traditional customs for baby Jesus and after the event in the temple with Simeon and Anna, they departed Jerusalem. The family returned to Galilee, to their own city in the village of Nazareth. Jesus grew, played and participated in family activities. There is only a short account of the infancy and childhood of our Lord Jesus.

Growing up outside of Jerusalem prevented and shielded Jesus' beginnings from being tangled up with the government at that time and with the Jewish church or state.

The family lived in a place of obscurity and reproach; for in this, as in other things, this community was the perfect environment that yielded for humility and to be one of no reputation.

Luke 2: 40 tells us *'the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him'.*

The story would not be complete if we don't look at how, where and why Jesus at a very young age was filled with wisdom. Jesus was human with the nature of humanity. Jesus' family loved Him. Joseph was the provider, protector, and spiritual leader. Mary was a spiritual and physical nurturer. And His siblings were the yardsticks of measurement, as well as other children. He passed through infancy and childhood, as other children did, yet without a sin nature or sin. He

was the living manifestation of a divine nature. He grew in stature of body and understanding of the human soul.

Let's investigate *'He was strong in spirit'*. By the Spirit of God, His human soul was extraordinary vigor and all His manner. He reasoned strongly and His judgment was penetrating. Whereas other children had foolishness bound in their hearts.

*'He was filled with wisdom'*. The wisdom did not come from any advantages of instructions or education. The wisdom came from the operation of the Holy Ghost. Everything He said or did was done in wisdom beyond His years. Every so often, a child will said something that will take us aback. It's a sure sign that the child is hearing from heaven's doors.

*'The grace of God was upon Him'*. Jesus was greatly beloved. His parents, family, and His community loved Him. His community accepted and respected Him during His childhood. Most importantly, the greatest love was the super high favor of God, the most cherished of God, and the most care for with the particular protection of God.

Parents must take the time to lead, protect, cherish, teach, and bless their child/children in prayers. Charity starts in the home. May this year bring parents to the full awareness of their responsibility to their children/child. NEXT LESSON, WE'LL LOOK AT HOW OTHERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENT IN A CHILD'S LIFE.

