

# Lessons From A Prominent Family

**Introduction.** With the exception of His birth, Luke 2:41-52 records the only incident in the younger days of our Lord. There are three lessons that can be learned and are very useful. Wisdom relating to family relationships is some of the best wisdom one can attain (Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-2, 6).

## I. *Lessons For Parents*

A. Support each other's spiritual growth (vs. 41).

1. Joseph and Mary went every year to the feast in Jerusalem. This was a great example for Jesus. Couples can really join together and make each other better and stronger (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-7). Lot's wife and Job's wife are not very good examples of spouses building up one another (Genesis 19:26; Job 2:9).
2. We need fathers and mothers today who are devout Christians. We need fathers and mothers who will be good examples. Fathers can effectively teach and direct their boys and girls to make an honorable living here and to live a successful life which enriches the present and prepares for the future. Mothers can teach their boys and girls to be well-behaved and respectful.

B. Give your children spiritual direction (vs. 42).

1. The father is the head and spiritual leader of the home.
  - a) Marriage forms an institution and establishes an organization. Each institution or organization must have a head if it is to function properly. God could have made the wife, the children or the in-laws the head of the home, but He did not do so. He chose the husband and father.
  - b) Man's headship over the wife and home goes back to the very first marriage (Genesis 3:16). It continues through the Old Testament and through the New Testament (1 Peter 3:5; 1 Corinthians 11:3).
  - c) Paul establishes the husband's headship over the wife and home in Ephesians 5:22-24. It would be out of place for the spiritual head, Christ, to be submissive to the church.
  - d) Children must also be in subjection to their fathers (Ephesians 6:1-3). The headship of the husband and father is not established upon a dictatorial or harsh domination. Fathers who through indifference or insufficient courage fail to assume this position are failing in one of the great responsibilities of fatherhood. It is deeply disappointing to visit a home where parents cater to a child's every whim.

2. The mother is to guide and keep the home.
  - a) The wife will determine the tone of the home by her guidance (1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:4-5).. She can either radiate a spirit that will make her husband and children long for home every time they are away or she can display a disposition that will make home anything but a place of pleasure.
  - b) Mothers should excel in maintaining a home that radiates an atmosphere of spiritual activity, purity, peace and is a refuge of holiness, serenity and salvation.
  - c) The direction of a person's existence is normally formed during the first few years of a child's life and these years are normally spent with his mother. A good mother in Bible times believed that the teaching of God's word to her children was one of the supreme tasks of motherhood (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15).
  - d) The current concept of motherhood calls for her part in the biological production but turns the rearing of the child over to another. There has been a growing tendency for the love of luxury which requires two full-time salaries. The Bible does not condemn a woman working, but she cannot neglect her responsibilities (cf. Proverbs 31:10-31).
- C. Be concerned for well-being of your children (vss. 43-48).
  1. Children deserve to be wanted, loved and respected. When you look at Abraham and Sarah, Elkanah and Hannah and Zacharias and Elizabeth, you see parents who wanted their children. When parents fail to want and love their children, the word of God is blasphemed (Titus 2:4-5; 2 Timothy 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:14). Children are gifts from God and deserve to be respected as such (Psalm 127:3).
  2. Children deserve to be trained and disciplined for life and eternity. Many children grow to maturity and never know the rod of correction or hear a single "No" directed toward their wishes (Proverbs 22:6; 29:17; 13:24; Ephesians 6:4). Many parents could care less what their children do, where they go, with whom they associate and what time they check in at night. In that situation, children grow up in a permissive atmosphere and are left to make decisions that are above and beyond their capability.
  3. On the other hand, children need to be taught to worship God in spirit and truth, to seek God's kingdom first, to maintain moral purity, to marry someone who will encourage spirituality and to assume responsibility for choices and actions.
  4. Children deserve parents who will take time for them. Parents and children are together for only a short time and the years speed by so quickly. Parents and children should spend time together rather than being too engrossed in life and work.

## II. **Lessons For Children**

### A. Devotion (vs. 46).

1. First and foremost, children should be devoted to God. "Devotion" means "feeling or displaying strong affection or attachment." Perhaps in no other time have greater battles been fought to capture the allegiance of young people. Numerous voices plead for their attention. Many pressures exist to conform them to the ways of the world.
2. Children should honor, love, care and be devoted to their parents. The obligation to love and respect parents is a lifetime requirement. Children must realize that the opportunity to express love and concern to parents can quickly pass forever. Children need to love and brighten the hearts of their parents while their ears can still hear their voice and their eyes can still read their letters.
3. Children must also bear the responsibility of care for their parents. The Pharisees in Christ's day sought to dispense with parental support (Mark 7:9-13). A wonderful form of paying back our parents for all they have done for us is caring for them in older age (1 Timothy 5:4, 8).

### B. Submission (vs. 51).

1. Children should be obedient and respectful to parents. Young people cannot successfully imitate Jesus unless they are obedient and respectful to parental authority (Luke 2:51-52). If Jesus could not afford to dispense with obedience to His parents during His youth, then no young person today can afford to either.
2. Being obedient to parents is a commandment (Proverbs 1:8-9; Ephesians 6:1-3). Many parents appear today to be afraid of their children. They believe that if they come down hard on their children, they will grow up to hate the parents. What has happened to parental backbone? They are supposed to yield to you!
3. Children furthermore should strive to be helpful and dependable. Both mothers and fathers have a full day of work every day. Children need to be taught to be helpers and not hinderers. They also need to learn how to make promises and keep promises (Ecclesiastes 5:2-5).

### C. Development (vs. 52).

1. Young people who are wise will heed the voice of Solomon's and Paul's injunctions (Ecclesiastes 12:1; 1 Timothy 4:12). These commandments for young people are as binding as God's command that Noah build an ark, Abraham leave Ur of Chaldees for Canaan, Moses deliver Israel from Egyptian tyranny, Jonah preach to Nineveh and the Galilean disciples follow Jesus.

2. Consider the reasons to remember God:
  - a) This may be the only period of life you will have.
    - (1) Both the old and the young will die and meet that appointment (Hebrews 9:27). We may not have threescore and ten years of life (Psalm 90:10).
    - (2) The life of a young person is much like a vapor which can vanish at any moment (James 4:14).
  - b) God deserves your loyalty.
    - (1) Satan has not done one thing beneficial for you. He will ruin you bodily, mentally, socially and spiritually. He dangles the pleasures of sin before you but fails to tell you that sinful pleasures are temporary in duration (Hebrews 11:24-28). He will not show you the regrets that follow sinful indulgence.
    - (2) On the other hand, God is your maker. All good and perfect gifts flow from His hand (Matthew 5:45; James 1:17). God and His Son want you to wear the crown of eternal life.
  - c) Your friends need to see that Jesus really lives in you.
    - (1) You may be the only Bible your friends at school ever read (2 Corinthians 3:2; Titus 2:6-8).
    - (2) Young people can win people to the Lord that older people might possibly never reach.
3. God has remembered you in your youth. God has not forgotten children for a moment of their lives. Even when your thoughts were hostile and antagonistic toward Him, He has always been kind and gracious to you. God does not wait until you are older to bestow blessings upon you; you should not wait until you are older before you remember Him.

D. Consider the results of remembering God:

1. You will have a happier life.
  - a) Millions of young people are seeking happiness and satisfaction in premarital sex, drinking, drug addiction, etc. Lasting happiness is not found in the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17; Proverbs 13:15).
  - b) The scars of forgiven sins can haunt you for a lifetime. If a young person has lived a life of sobriety, righteousness and godliness, there will be fewer regrets to plague them later (Titus 2:12).
2. You will have a happier home.
  - a) As a Christian, young people can add immeasurably to the joy of a good family. It can add a meaningful chapter to your present home and also weigh heavily for one day having a Christian home of your own.

- b) Making a life is more important than learning how to make a living. You not only need secular education, but also practical education from your parents and this type of education will enrich your life beyond description.

### III. ***A Lesson For All Of Us***

- A. Be about your Father's business (vs. 49).
  - 1. Jesus did the work of His Father (John 4:34; 5:17, 19, 30; 8:29, 49; 12:49). This gives us a splendid example to follow in our own work.
  - 2. Jesus made it plain that He came to do God's will, not His own (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44; Hebrews 10:9).
- B. You can be about financial business, work-related business, family business and even each other's business. However, if you are about your Father's business, everything else will fall into place.

**Conclusion.** How rewarding it will be for all of us to do His will and perform our duties so that we may one day stand on the right hand of Jesus. Even in the simplest of Bible texts, there are lessons to be learned. The real question lies in the fact of whether we will heed them. If you want to be better spouses, children or Christians, then listen to the inspired word.