

# #4- The Forgotten: The Experts

06/21/2009 - Jim Johnson – Luke 2:41-47

Luke 2:41-47 exposes us to an incident where the 12 year Jesus exercised a ministry to the forgotten – the experts of Israel. In verse 41-45 the stage was set for the story. Jesus had just reached the age of 12 and had become a “Son of the Law” meaning that he had become an adult in view to the Law, and was responsible to keep it. With his family, He made the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feat of the Passover. (41-42)

After both the Feast of Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, the family reconvened with their caravan friends and took off for Galilee. (43) Mary assumed that Jesus was traveling with the men whereas Joseph assumed He was traveling with the women and children. (43-44) but it turns out Jesus had stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary had traveled towards home the first day, and back again the next. The third day they scoured Jerusalem up and down and found Jesus at the temple visiting with the Teachers of Israel. (45-46) There are 5 observations to make.

## A. The Teachers \_\_\_\_\_ Him. – 46

It was the custom for the teachers of Israel to hold open discussions during the Feast Days. Jesus was sitting in. He was however, sitting in the midst of them. They had drawn Him from the periphery and placed him in the middle of the meeting. He became the center of attention.

## B. The Teachers took Him \_\_\_\_\_ – 46

The teachers gave him the freedom to ask questions and then dignified his question by carefully formulating an answer. They took him seriously.

## C. The Teachers \_\_\_\_\_ Him - 47

The teachers were so taken with Jesus as they heard the wisdom in His answers. They probed Him. They wanted to understand his thoughts.

## D. The Teachers \_\_\_\_\_ to Him – 47

This was a boy, but still they listened, and they looked for the wisdom and truth in what He said. They found his words to be amazing and his answers profound

## E. The Teachers \_\_\_\_\_ him – 46

Jesus had evidently spent the entire 3 days with these men. The pilgrims had all gone home. In fact it was likely that the teaching sessions were formerly over because the feast days were complete. But for some reason this kid would show up every day and the teachers loved it. Rather than finding out who He belonged to, and sending him home, they retained Him. They enjoyed Jesus as much as Jesus enjoyed them.

Mary and Joseph finally found Him and interrupted (48) Jesus replied “And He said to them, *“Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?”* (49) They did not understand His statement (50) Regardless Jesus rejoined the family and they went back with them to Nazareth to spend the next 18 years. There he would prepare for that day when He Himself would become the teacher of Israel.

## ANALYSIS

**So who were those \_\_\_\_\_?** They were also known as scribes – the men who made copied and studied, practiced and taught the Law. Since the vast majority of scribes adhered to the theology of the Pharisees they would have also been known as Pharsiees. **Problem!** 18 years later Jesus began his ministry and he was largely opposed by the scribes and the Pharisees.

**Something had changed in the way the teachers related to the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.**

The teachers had included the boy Jesus. But the man Jesus was not received. (John 1:11) The teachers took the boy Jesus seriously, but they accused the man Jesus of having a demon and being insane. (John 10:20) The teachers questioned the boy Jesus. They questioned the man Jesus as well, but this time it was for the purpose of trying to trip Him up. (Luke 11:53-54) The Teachers listened to the boy Jesus but they refused to hear the words of the adult Jesus. (John 8:47) The teachers retained the boy Jesus. But they plotted to kill the man Jesus (John 11:53). Those teachers were fascinated to hear Jesus say to Mary “Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” But they condemned the man Jesus because He “was calling God His own Father....” (John 5:18)

**So why would these men be so sweet and affirming to the boy Jesus and yet later be so hostile to the man Jesus?**

**Because he was a \_\_\_\_\_** Children are able to say things that adults could never get away with. When the 12 year old Jesus spoke with them, He probably stepped on as many toes as did the adult Jesus did, but He was a kid, and it was cool.

**Why did God include this story in the Gospel of Luke?** Because He is a God who remembers the forgotten This passage tells us that the Lord cared about those self-righteous scribes. Before He ever sent them His adult Son, he sent them His 12 year old son. He put the truth in a package they would love. He approached them in such way so as not to put them on the defense He wanted to give them every opportunity to hear and consider the truth. He was willing to do whatever it took to reach even the hard hearted – even if it meant sending a 12 year old boy to reach a bunch of crusty old men.” **There is a lesson here for Father’s today.**

**Teach your kids, but don’t be afraid to let your \_\_\_\_\_ teach you too.** God is every bit as wise as He ever was. And human nature surely hasn’t changed much over the last 2,000 years. So it seems reasonable to assume that when God wants to teach us stuffy, proud dads something, He might occasionally go under the radar and do it through our kids.

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## FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. God’s compassion drives Him to go above and beyond. What other unique ways has God pursued man as recorded in the Bible (or as experienced in real life)?
2. Was there a time when the Lord ever used a child to speak to you? What was it?