

OUR SAVIOR GOD IS AN OBEDIENT MAN

I. Growing Up a Lowly Man

II. Special in Obedience and Service

III. To Give Us Righteousness

Luke 2:41-52

Revision of Christmas 1, 12/31/2006, St. Timothy, Lombard

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018 | CHRISTMAS

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

YEAR C

<i>Old Testament</i>	1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26
<i>Psalm</i>	Psalm 111
<i>New Testament</i>	Hebrews 2:10–18
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 2:41–52

NON-COMMUNION

MEDFORD

Psalm 111, p. 106

Opening Hymn - CW 54 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Hymn of the Day – CW 67 What Child Is This? (Alternate: 34 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice)

Closing Hymn - CW 62 Joy to the World

GRANTS PASS

The Entrance Hymn or Introit – ELH 115 vv. 1-4, 15 All My Heart Sings and Rejoices

Chief Hymn – ELH 145 What Child Is This? (Alternate: 135 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice)

Closing Hymn – ELH 138 Joy to the World

Luke 2:41–52 (CSB)

⁴¹ Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. ⁴³ After those days were over, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming he was in the traveling party, they went a day’s journey. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days, they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all those who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

⁴⁹ “Why were you searching for me?” he asked them. “Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

Dear fellow redeemed, purchased for God by the child who was and is God in the flesh: Last week we met Jesus, in the manger, born of Mary, His mother, but with no one who corresponded to Mary as an earthly father. Nevertheless, Joseph was a caring and protective foster-father to Joseph, taking on faith that this was in fact a special child – God in the flesh.

But just as we learned on Christmas day, the sign with which the shepherds were to recognize Jesus consisted of an

ordinary manger and ordinary swaddling cloths on an ordinary Baby. As a human child, Jesus did not use His divine power, for He had not come to glorify Himself but to take our place and to save us.

This story is the one “dot” that connects the dot of His lowly birth with the dots of his ministry, passion, death, resurrection and ascension. This shows that He was no mere man who arrived at a “god complex” in his early thirties, nor was He a magical child, God playing at being a child. We see clearly that ...

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Luke records these events, probably having interviewed Mary, for He says, Luke 1:3 **³Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you,** most excellent Theophilus. Nevertheless, what He writes is inspired, and does not follow the expectations of sinful man.

While many expected that the Messiah to come was going to be a kingly conqueror, Isaiah foretold that He would be a suffering servant, as we see in one of the more familiar passages, Isaiah 53:1-3

¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Human imagination would say that Jesus must have been something special. Fanciful traditions have him bringing

wounded birds back to life and magically turning one thing into another. But the fact is, He came to take your place, and to be like you. Galatians 4:4-5 **4But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.**

Hebrews 4:15 **15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.**

So He wasn't anything special to look at. We might think that His holiness would be conspicuous, but let me ask you, "Would you know real perfection in life, in word and deed, if you saw it? Would any of us sinners know it?" Probably not.

Notice Mary here in our text. **48When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."** Quite clearly, Mary wasn't very happy with Jesus. But who was the sinner? Jesus or Mary? Jesus clearly shows who was in the wrong when He said, **49"Why were you searching for me?" he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?"**

So even though Jesus was holy, He was not conspicuous. He was not glorious. He was humble, lowly. He was living as one of us.

II. Special in Obedience and Service

Jesus was born sinless, spiritually alive, holy and loving God perfectly. What would he have been like? Born an infant, as He grew up he would have grown to know the world in which we live, as well as the true and living God, in whatever way God revealed Himself.

So we meet Him here as a student of God's word, according to His human nature.

This doesn't take away from the fact that He is God Himself, come down from heaven, as He himself said, John

6:38 ³⁸**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.** To which the Jews reacted. John 6:42 ⁴²**They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”** But Jesus persisted, John 6:46 ⁴⁶**No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.**

But even in declaring that He came down from Heaven, Jesus again emphasizes that it was not to be glorified, but to serve. Jesus didn't come to be only a glorious example to us, but also a substitute for us.

Just as one man brought sin into the world, one MAN would provide the remedy for sin. Paul puts it this way in Romans 5:17 ¹⁷**For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.**

In 2 Corinthians 5:21 Paul underscores the exchange: ²¹**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

III. To Give Us Righteousness

So that we might become the righteousness of God.

Do you have the righteousness of God, so that you can know God and fellowship with God? On our own, no, but it is the righteousness of God that Jesus was living out all during his life.

He did his chores. He learned His lessons. He learned His father's trade of carpentry.

In one clip of the movie, The Nativity, that I saw, Mary wonders out loud what Jesus would do or say to make it clear that He was special. But holiness isn't seen in doing something "holy" it is shown in doing ordinary things, the things we do every day, in a holy way.

At work Jesus served God in faith and His neighbor in love. He put honest effort into what he made as a carpenter.

He gave a full day's work for His day's wages. He didn't envy somebody else who might be more wealthy. Regardless of how difficult His boss or his customer, He gave the same effort for everyone – out of love for them and for God.

He dealt with the frustrations of life with love and charity. He kept an even head and emotions in the face of irritations that would leave us mumbling under our breath or striking out verbally – or worse

As a child, he took responsibility, but was also submissive to his parents, as we can see in our lesson for today.

This is his active obedience, keeping the obedience that every man, every human being, owes God, but cannot deliver.

He came to earth to do this. He also came to do what was specially asked of Him by God the father, to do what none of us have been asked to do, to pay for the sins of the world. This is His "passive obedience"

What gives it away is in verses 48b-50: **His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."**

⁴⁹ **"Why were you searching for me?" he asked them. "Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?"** ⁵⁰ **But they did not understand what he said to them.** Jesus made clear who was His true father by His choice of what He considered "His Father's house."

Sinners as they were, and limited in their spiritual insight, Mary and Joseph still didn't get it. Jesus' disciples were the same way when He explained that He would die and rise again from the dead. It didn't make sense.

But for your sake and for mine, He accomplished it nevertheless. For your sake and mine, our Savior, though God Himself, was "just" an obedient man, so that by faith, you can be counted obedient before God. By faith you are wonderful husband, loving wife, dutiful children, bearing in every way the righteousness of God. AMEN.