

July 12, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
The more we live on a diet of
God's Word, the more we grow

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, I want to grow, so help
me to go deeper into Your
Word. Teach me more each day,
so that I am better equipped to
serve and worship You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*For everyone who partakes only of
milk is unskilled in the word of
righteousness, for he is a babe*
(Heb 5:13 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 16, 2016)

**Series: Many Faces of
Wisdom**
UNIT: Wisdom in the Gospels

NEXT WEEK
The Wisdom of Jesus
(Mark 6:1-6)

The Boy Jesus **Ecc 3:1, 7; Luke 2:39-52**

Lesson Background and Introduction

Of the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke give stories of Jesus' birth, and only Luke includes a story from Jesus' childhood. It comes just after the accounts of the announcement and birth of both John the Baptist and Jesus. Luke portrays both births as vital parts of God's plan, closely linked to one another as the two men's ministries later would be linked. Even so, Jesus' uniqueness is evident from the beginning (Luke 1:32, 35; 2:11). How do we comprehend something that is fundamentally different from every other thing with which we have experience? Ecclesiastes speaks of the regularity of life's cycles, showing the wisdom of understanding circumstances. Luke shows Jesus' uniqueness in how Jesus defied the conventional wisdom of those cycles as He spoke in the temple at age 12. But Jesus' words come to us as the first divine revelation from His lips at the time the uniqueness of His identity began to build. As people called into fellowship with Jesus, Christians are to follow God's purpose in mundane, daily ways—ways that can give way suddenly to our saying and doing the unexpected. For us to expect to do only and always the unusual is not God's way. Even so, God's will can run counter to conventional expectations on many occasions. Expect the world to scold us for defying its expectations as we continue to follow in the surprising direction of Jesus' footsteps.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Timing - Solomon affirmed through his writings in Ecclesiastes that God has absolute, sovereign control over all things in heaven and on earth. Nothing operates unless it is according to the Father's timetable. There is a time to speak out and a time to be silent. Jesus moved in step with God's set agenda while here on earth. At the age of 12, He started wisely and intelligently conversing with Jewish rabbis in the temple in Jerusalem. His verbal interactions amazed the learned teachers.

Growing - Mary and Joseph settled in the town of Nazareth and Jesus grew up there, receiving His parents' instructions like any other child. However, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover, something remarkable happened. Customarily, they traveled in a caravan to the capital city during this time each year for the celebration. But Jesus did not stay all the time with His parents during this trip. When they left, He stayed behind, went to the temple, and sat at the feet of the Jewish teachers well versed in the Law. Mary and Joseph were already in the caravan returning home to Nazareth when they realized Jesus was nowhere to be found. They frantically searched for Him for days before finally locating Him in the temple back in Jerusalem. Mary reacted like a typical mother: "Why have You behaved like this? Your father and I have been worried sick." Jesus replied they should have known He would be in His Father's house, the temple.

Learning - Jesus' response to Mary are His first recorded words in the Bible. It indicated He was beginning to take on the responsibility of His divine calling, even though his parents failed to grasp the entire meaning of His words. When Jesus returned to Nazareth, He subjected Himself to His parent's authority and grew even more in wisdom and in favor with those who knew Him. The Bible tells Christians to come together and learn from each other. One person may have one piece of the puzzle while someone else holds another. The wise thing for us to do is to study and grow together as we gather in God's house each week.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Time for Growth (Eccl 3:1, 7)

Time to be a child (1)

A child is a blessing for parents who fear God (Ps 128:3-4)

A child that is well cared for (Ps 144:12)

A child that is obedient (Eph 6:1-3)

A child that walks in the truth (2 John 1:4)

Time to mature (7)

Maturity through growing in faith (Heb 6:1-2)

Maturity through seeking God's power to overcome the world (Rev 3:12)

Maturity through the testing of faith (James 1:12)

Maturity through persevering (1 Peter 1:7-9)

Physical Growth (Luke 2:39-45)

Physical strength (39-40)

It is God who provides physical strength (Ps 18:32)

God says it is better to have wisdom than physical strength (Eccl 9:16)

Hope in God will renew strength (Isa 40:31)

In man's weakness, God demonstrates His strength (1 Cor 1:25)

Doing everything through Jesus who gives strength (Phil 4:13)

Physical age (42)

Physical age should result in when mature, thinking should also mature (1 Cor 13:11)

Aging should allow one to tell of God's power to those younger (Ps 71:18)

Advanced physical age is a blessing and can signify a righteous life (Prov 16:31)

Physical inquisitiveness (43-45)

Physical inquisitiveness is one way of training the young (Deut 6:20-21)

Physical inquisitiveness is a way of passing on God's mighty acts (Ps 145:4-5)

Physical inquisitiveness should cause one to seek God (Acts 17:26-28)

Spiritual Growth (Luke 2:46-50)

Growth through learning from teachers (46)

One of the functions of the Church is to provide teaching (Eph 4:10-13)

Teaching of God's Word should lead to being able to distinguish between good and evil (Heb 5:13-14)

Teachers will be judged more strictly, so respect and learn from them (James 3:1)

Learn from the teaching of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27)

Growth through understanding (47)

Understanding aids in obedience to God's Word (Ps 119:34)

Understanding aids in not taking the wrong path (Ps 119:104)

Understanding comes from God (Prov 2:6)

Understanding is worth achieving (Prov 4:7)

Growth through spiritual responsibility (49)

Spiritual responsibility is accepting the calling of God (Isa 6:8)

Spiritual responsibility is finishing the tasks God has assigned (Acts 20:24)

Spiritual responsibility is pressing on toward the goal and prize God has assigned (Phil 3:13-14)

Spiritual responsibility is fighting the good fight of faith (2 Tim 4:7-8)

Obedient Growth (Luke 2:51-52)

Obedience through subjection to authorities (51)

Subjection to authorities because God established them (Rom 13:1)

Subjection to authorities because it is a command of God (Titus 3:1)

Subjection to authorities out of reverence for Jesus (Eph 5:21)

Subjection to authorities because they are there to administer justice (1 Peter 2:13-14)

Obedience through increasing wisdom (52)

The wise know the proper time and procedure (Eccl 8:5)

The wise consider and obey the great love of God (Ps 107:43)

The wise accept commands from God (Prov 10:8)

The wise adhere to instruction (Prov 13:1)

The wise listen to advice and instruction (Prov 19:20)

The wise continues to do God's Word until He returns (Matt 24:45-46)

Obedience through pleasing God (52)

Living as a child of light (righteousness) is pleasing to God (Eph 5:8-10)

Always seek that the meditation of the mind and the words of the mouth are pleasing to God (Ps 19:14)

Serving God in righteousness, peace and joy is pleasing to God (Rom 14:16-18)

Praying for others is pleasing to God (1 Tim 2:1-3)

Taking care of family is pleasing to God (1 Tim 5:4)