

JESUS OF NAZARETH: THE SILENT YEARS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our Lord's Lowly Birth.
 - a. The death of Herod the Great - B.C. 4
 - b. Large Jewish Community in Egypt.
 - (1) Do not know how long Joseph-Mary-Jesus lived in Egypt.
2. Archaelaus (son of Herod) Reigned In Israel

I. JOSEPH AND MARY RETURNED WITH JESUS TO NAZARETH.

1. Luke 2:39-40 "And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him."

Note: Herod's Sons Reigned in Israel

Archaelaus in Judea

Herod Antipas in Galilee

Philip - In Iturea and the Decapolis

2. The Galilee+Including Nazareth Had A Mixed Population

a. Galilee - The circle of the Gentiles

SEPPORIS
(1) Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Syrians, Jews

1. Mt. Tabor, Mt. Hermon, Valley of Jezreel

II. WE HAVE ONLY A SKELETON OUTLINE OF THE NAZARETH YEARS.

1. Jesus Was A Part Of A Large Family.
 - a. Four Brothers and, at least, Two Sisters
 - a. James, Joseph, Simon and Judas
2. The Scriptures Are Plain:
 - a. Matthew 13:53-57 "And it came to pass when Jesus had finished these parables, that he set out from that place. And when he had come to his own country he began to teach them in their synagogues so that they were astonished, and said, How did this man come by this wisdom and these miracles? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brethren James, Joseph, Simon and Jude? And his sisters are they not all with us? Then where did he get all this? and they took offense at him".

3. Mark 3:31-32 "There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and they brethren without seek for thee."
4. Mark 6:1-5 "And he went out thence and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?"
5. Acts 1:12- Luke says that in the upper room in addition to the Apostles there were " the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren..."
6. Galatians 1:19 "Paul records that, "Then after three years I went to Jerusalem to see Peter, and I remained with him fifteen days. But I say none of the other apostles, except James the brother of the Lord."
7. I Cor. 9:5-6 "Paul says, "He we not a right to take about with us a woman, a sister, as do the other apostles, and the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas..."
8. John 7:5 "For neither did his brethren believe in him."

III. HIS EDUCATION WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE SYNAGOGUE-SCHOOL.

- A. This would have been meager, But he would be able to speak Greek and Hebrew as well as his native Aramaic.
- B. Joseph Had The Responsibility To Teach Him The O.T.

1. W. Phillip Keller has pointed out that:

"Joseph and Mary had a prominent part to play in the shaping of his character. In a Jewish home it was the father's solem responsibility to instruct his children in the Scriptures. The greatly venerated book of Deuteronomy gave explicit and detailed instructions about how children were to be taught God's commandments. This was not a casual, hit-or-miss procedure. The parents took it dead seriously. The Scriptures were read, recited, and discussed every day. This was done whether one was at home, sitting down, lying down, or walking in the countryside, be it morning, noon, or night. Scriptures were wrapped around the post of the doorway. In short, a Jewish child grew up surrounded and saturated with the laws of God. Jesus was no exception."

How we could wish that parents all over America felt the same about teaching God's word today to their children.

IV. AT THE AGE OF TWELVE JESUS WENT UP TO THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM.

- A. Luke 2:41-52 "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of passover. And when he (Jesus) was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem: and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, there were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, they father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? know you not that I must be about my father's business and they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these saying in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and with man.

B. We Need To Realize That Jesus Enjoyed His Boyhood.

1. I Reflected on this every Saturday evening coming into Nazareth from the north.

- a. The author of RABBONI States my feelings very well on this early childhood:

"Somehow I always picture the boy Jesus as a sturdy, strong, barefoot lad with cheeks and arms kissed by the sun. With coal black hair and hair and piercing bright eyes. He was a picture of eager youth and energetic vigor. No doubt in company with other boys His age he climbed and explored all the hills that surrounded Nazareth like a giant amphitheater. There he watched the wind blowing the wild flowers. He followed the farmers as they raked their had and harvested their grain. He stealthily stalked the wild foxes and found their secret dens. He came across bird nests in the scrubby hedgerows and trees. Perhaps once or twice he pick up a fallen fledgling from the ground, tenderly replacing it in its nest".

Perhaps he often returned home after an exhilarating scramble in the hills, he brought a bunch of wild flowers to Mary"

V. ABOVE ALL IN THESE FORMATIVE YEARS HE WORKED AS A CARPENTER-BUILDER.

A. He Knew The Poverty and Simplicity of the Village of Nazareth.

He knew the honor of honest toil.

He possibly supported the FAMILY.

"Honest labour saves the body from effeminate
langour and the soul from polluting thoughts"

B. Phillip Keller describes this period well:

"In his daily toil of handling, hewing and shaping the tough wild olive wood and hard acacia common to the region. He developed tough sinews and hard muscles. He know what weariness and work and sweat and strain took from a man.

In buying His lumber and selling his finished yokes, plows, chests tables, benches, and candlesticks, he had to barter or deal in hard cash. He was exposed to all the whims of a busy, boisterous brutal world. Perhaps he became known as the carpenter of Nazareth. If one wanted excellent workmanship at an honest price, he went to Jesus. His craftsmanship was first class. His price was right. But best of all He loved people and could become your friend.

Then quietly one day He laid down His tools. He dusted off his strong hands. He walked out of the shop never to return to it again."

C! HE WAS WELL-BALANCED:

In Wisdom, In stature In favor with God and Man

1. At about the age of 30 he began his personal ministry.