

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E32

The Forgotten Years Of Jesus's Childhood - (Luke 2:39-40)

Description – The years between the birth narrative of Jesus in the gospels, His childhood, and then His coming onto the scene at His baptism by John when he's 30 years old are a bit mysterious. Today we'll begin to look at what we know from Jesus's childhood.

Today, we'll be diving into the "Forgotten" or speculative years of Jesus's Childhood.

Luke 2:39-40

³⁹ When they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him.

Honestly, we just don't have much from the Bible on these years in His life.

We don't have much from the birth narrative when Jesus was born to the account when Jesus was 12, and then nothing until he comes onto the scene when Jesus was 30.

What we do have is the outline of life from the Mishna, on what normally happened in Jewish culture.

At age 5 or sometimes 6, depending on the development of the child, a child would begin studying the Torah, the scriptures.

At age 10, the child would begin studying the Mishna, the sayings of the Rabbi's,

At age 13, the boys would celebrate their bar mitzvah, becoming obedient to the Law, living under the commandments. In essence, they became men, responsible for their own keeping of the law.

At age 15, they would begin studying under a Rabbi if they were chosen to go that route.

At age 18, they would prepare for marriage

And at age 30, they would be fully equipped to be a teaching Rabbi.

This is why Jesus followed this route, instead of coming on the scene when he was 20. He was a Jewish man in a Jewish culture.

What book did they begin studying as a child? Leviticus. Why? Because it's the book that talks about the festivals and their responsibilities to God.

They were adamant about memorizing the scriptures. A key educational method was memorization. While reading and writing were important skills to learn and master, scrolls were scarce.

David Biven notes, “Even though in Jesus’s time every Jewish home probably had at least one of the approximately twenty biblical scrolls, few people had immediate access to more than a very small part of the entire library of sacred literature.”

(David Biven, *New Light on the Difficult Words of Jesus: Insights from His Jewish Context*)

Link to book on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/New-Light-Difficult-Words-Jesus/dp/0974948225/>

David Young, in his book, *Jesus the Jewish Theologian* said, “Jesus was unlike any other person, and yet he’s like every human being”. I

Link to book on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Jewish-Theologian-Brad-Young/dp/0801048176/>

Links to Bible Reading Plans:

F260

<https://longhollow.com/follow-the-f260-bible-reading-plan>

NT260

<https://longhollow.com/follow-the-nt260-bible-reading-plan>

OT260

<https://longhollow.com/follow-the-ot260-bible-reading-plan>

As Jesus grew and matured, he, just like every other Jewish kid growing up, spent time, large chunks of time in memorizing scripture. He is only one person, but he has two distinct natures; a divine nature and a human nature. These two natures existed side by side; they never mixed.

While in his deity, he is omniscient, in his humanity, he had to undergo the same types of learning experiences that all humans have to undergo. In his humanity, he simply did not know everything. He needed to grow up and to be trained.

He learned the Torah at a young age by studying and memorizing the word.

Mary and Joseph took the time to teach Jesus scripture, they went to celebrate festivals as a family, they took him to synagogue. They were devout followers of God.

But that alone doesn't explain the knowledge and wisdom that Jesus displayed at age 12, when in Jerusalem He's listening to and asking questions of the scholars, the academic doctors, the theologians of Mosaic Law in the Temple Complex.

Next week we'll look at what happened in the Temple with Jesus when he was 12 years old