

Have you ever known a kid who turned out to be completely different as an adult than he was as a child? It could be either way. Maybe he was a good kid; a model student and the example for everyone else. But then, you saw him years later as an adult and quickly saw that he had become a bad man. Or, perhaps the child was a terror as a kid, but turned out to be the model citizen and a genuine good guy. It can happen!

According to what Scripture shares about the brief mentions of Jesus, in the minds of many people He might have turned out to be quite different than what the old townsfolk expected. Our sermon text might give us a glimpse as to why people may have thought so. Remembering the child they knew, then hearing about Him as an adult might have caused them to be amazed, astonished, and not knowing how to respond to Him.

Thus the theme for today's message: The Kid Who was God! I mean no disrespect to our Lord with this theme! The reason being that it is True! He IS God who became man! Perhaps it was the case that it was easier for some to accept Him as a kid, rather than as an adult. It's part of the Faith dilemma in being led to receive Him as God and Man! In this we can be amazed...astonished...and perplexed, even though, we do not understand!

Easy to accept as kid???...

We just went through Advent and Christmas where we “welcomed” the Babe in the manger. It is perhaps the one thing (most) everyone likes about the account of Jesus. We see it in Christmas cards, Advent calendars, hymns, and songs. It is very endearing to many people; perhaps even to many unbelievers! The reason, I would guess, is because a small helpless babe in such conditions would be seen as “no threat”.

The Best of the best! We can assume the child Jesus was exactly that! Our text tells us that He: **grew and became strong, was filled w wisdom, and the grace/favor of God was upon Him.** Just about everyone would have liked Jesus as a kid! These thoughts are repeated in vs. 51 & 52: **Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them...And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Amazed!!!!...** We too would have liked Him!

But then comes the surprise as related in the text. This twelve-year-old does the unexpected! Most kids who would wander off and stay behind for three days while His panic-stricken parents were frantically searching for Him, might by some have been characterized as more of the aloof, independent, strong-willed rebellious type. Of course that is not the case! He was indeed “doing His Father's will!” This a foretaste of what is coming at His maturing as a man! He does astound even the scholars of the Scriptures by reason of His understanding and the answers that He gave them. Later on, the crowds would be amazed at His teaching, because He spoke with authority, unlike the religious leaders (Matt. 7:29).

How about as an adult???...

He didn't do things as expected, beginning with staying behind, and having all the (Right) answers, and proclaiming that He was doing His Father's work and will, which

would prompt some to accuse Him of blasphemy. Therefore, it could be said that He was not well liked by the “establishment”!

It would be even more so as an adult. Mainly because of the Truth He would reveal regarding the matter of sin, where He tells us about sin’s consequences. How it breaks the Law of God, condemns us and demands eternal punishment. That didn’t go over real well with some! Then He says something even more “outrageous”, without Him there is no salvation.

What He says reveals that we simply cannot keep Law and Word of God. This prompted even His disciples to ask in amazement, “Who then can be saved???” He responds, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are Possible!” (Matthew 19:26).

THIS IS THE AMAZING THING! Salvation is possible, even a sure thing, through Jesus, and His Sacrifice for our pardon. And for our LIFE!

As One of us???...

Does this help us to learn a few things???...Namely that...

God is not bound by our expectations and schedules!

But He always acts!...

According to what is best for us!

He is “In His Father’s House!” Meaning He is here. Giving us Grace!

We may not understand His ways with us...

We at times may struggle through things, but then see His Answer.

At times we are “Amazed...Astonished!”...

We can consider His earthly parents...

They at times may not have understood Him, but...

He loved them...

Regarded them, respected them, and did what was best for our sakes!

It can be the same for us...

We may wonder at how He seems to “treat us” some times.

We may not understand it all, but we know He...

Loves us...

In submitting to Father’s will...

For our sakes, and for our Salvation...

We are reminded of the fact, that He was willing to be with us...

As a babe...a child...a Man... The Savior...

With us to the End...

In daily tasks, etc. ...

Pointing us to the Life to Come!

He was a kid... He IS God...with us for the Long Run...

With us in the Perfect Love like a child...

With us in the Almighty Power of God!

Amen!