**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 16 February 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

**“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”**

**Anna’s Testimony—Luke 2:36-38**

 36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

* Anna the Prophetess, she was married seven years in her early life.
* After losing her husband, Anna devoted herself to attending worship and service in the temple.
* She lived in the women’s court and everyday she committed herself to waiting on the first Advent of the Messiah.
* Anna was a strong 84-year-old woman able to fast and pray

 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

* Just as Mary and Joseph was presenting Jesus to God, and Simeon was speaking to the parents, Anna joined the parents and Simeon
* She gave thanks to the Lord God for allowing her to see the promised Redeemer
* As a Prophetess, she spoke about Jesus to the faithful in Jerusalem

**Jesus Returns to Nazareth—Luke 2:39-40**

 39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

* Luke didn’t include the visit of the Magi [the Wise Men] and the flight into Egypt recorded in Matthew’s Gospel [Matthew 2:1-18]
* Luke’s purpose for writing was not focused on the rejection of Jesus Christ.
* The Theme ofScripture for the Gospel of Luke gives some attention to Luke’s **Luke 1:4**

 **“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”**

 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

* The normal growth of Jesus as a child was part of God’s purpose for the Savior of the World
* *Physically*, he grew and became strong in in spirit.
* He experienced the usual stages of physical development by learning how to walk, talk, play and work.
* *Mentally,* Jesus was filled with wisdom. He had to learn as a Jewish child the Torah, the Hebrew Alphabet and how to properly write and communicate it.
* Jesus had to learn all the common knowledge, culture and traditions of His day
* *Spiritually*, the favor of God was upon Him. He walked in fellowship and dependance on the Holy Spirit.
* Because of His childhood, Jesus can sympathize with parents facing the challenges of raising their children—**Read Hebrews 4:15-16**

 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

* As a human being, Jesus shares parent’s frustration and experiences and He understands the pain of being a child.
* This is why we can come to God’s throne of grace in our times of need

**Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Luke 2:41-44**

 41 Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

* Jesus was living under the Old Testament Mosaic Laws—**Read Exodus 23:14-19 (Common English Bible)**

 14 You should observe a festival for me three times a year.

 15 Observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread, as I commanded you. Eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, because it was in that month that you came out of Egypt. No one should appear before me empty-handed.

 16 Observe the Harvest Festival for the early produce of your crops that you planted in the field, and the Gathering Festival at the end of the year, when you gather your crop of fruit from the field.

 17 All your males should appear three times a year before the Lord God.

 18 Don’t offer the blood of my sacrifice with anything leavened. Don’t let the fat of my festival offering be left over until the morning.

 19 **Bring the best** of your land’s early produce to the Lord your God’s temple. Don’t boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.

* The Passover was a one-day feast. It was followed by a week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread
* In fact, when Jesus became an adult, He continued celebrating the Feast of Unleavened Bread—**Read Matthew 26:17**

 “Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

* The Last Supper was the celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

* Jesus staying behind was not a supernatural act on his part.
* Jesus was a typical curious young boy. He was not misbehaving nor disobedient
* Mary and Joseph presumed he was with relatives

 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

* When Jewish communities travelled, they did so in large caravans of friends and relatives
* It was not uncommon for a large caravan to become separated as they travelled a distance.
* Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was with relatives

 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

* After traveling a full day, Mary and Joseph discovered Jesus was not with the caravan
* It took them one day to return to Jerusalem and spent another day searching for Jesus.
* They found Jesus in the temple courts
* At a young age, Jesus became a student—listening and asking questions
* The teachers were amazed at his questions that put them to shame.

 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

* When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, they were amazed, stunned, shocked but relieved.
* Mary’s tone revealed her emotions at that time “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”
* Jesus was not hiding from his parents. He did what a child was supposed to do when left behind—He went to a public place which was the temple

 49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

* Jesus’ reply to his parents was not disrespectful—that would have been sinful.
* “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” *[business]* Even though Jesus was young, he had a clear understanding of His identity and purpose

**Jesus Grows in Wisdom**

 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

* Jesus didn’t allow His purpose or relationship with His heavenly Father override his earthly connection to Mary and Joseph
* His obedience to the 5th Commandment was an important part to His perfect obedience to the Law—**Hebrews 5:8-9**

 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

**Matthew 5:17**

 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

* Jesus had to fulfill all righteousness in order to become the perfect sacrifice for our sins
* “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”
* Jesus did not cease being God when He became a man
* He took on a human nature and submitted His divine attributes to the will of God the Father

**John 5:19**

 “Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”

**Philippians 2:5-8**

 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

* **There were times when Jesus’ omniscience was on display in spite of His humanity**

**Matthew 9:4**

 “But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?”

* **\*\*\*\*\*There were times when Jesus covered it by his humanity in accordance with the Father’s will**

**Mark 13:31-32**

 31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

 32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

**1 John 1:1-3**

 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--

 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**John 1**

 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

 2 He was in the beginning with God.

 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

 **14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Q = Is there an age requirement to serve God in any capacity?

Q = Let’s not be hard on Mary and Joseph for losing contact with Jesus—

 Have you ever lost contact with Jesus?

 How did you feel?

 Or did you care?

Q = How did you reconnect with Jesus?

Q = Even though Jesus was the Son of God, how important was His physical

 and spiritual preparation for life?

Q = How important was your preparation and how is it benefiting you today?