



Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
Fourth in a series of messages • January 26, 2025

LUKE 2:39-52 (TNIV)

³⁹When Joseph and Mary had **DONE EVERYTHING REQUIRED BY THE LAW OF THE LORD**, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child **GREW** and *became strong*; he was *filled with wisdom*, and *the grace of God was on him*.

⁴¹**EVERY YEAR** Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for THE FESTIVAL OF THE PASSOVER. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to THE FESTIVAL, **ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM**. ⁴³After THE FESTIVAL was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him **IN THE TEMPLE COURTS**, *sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions*. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When 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."

⁴⁹"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "**Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?**" [KJV: "I must be about my Father's business"—MSG: "*dealing with the things of my Father*"—NTFE: "I would have to be *involved with my father's work*"—ERV & ICV: "I must be where my Father's work is"—EASY: "I must be *doing what my Father wants me to do*"]

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

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

⁵²And Jesus **GREW** in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people.

1. What fresh growth are you planning? How Jesus grew... v. 52

- Jesus grew in wisdom — **MENTALLY**
- Jesus grew in stature — **PHYSICALLY**
- Jesus grew in favor with God — **SPIRITUALLY**
- Jesus grew in favor with people — **RELATIONALLY**

2. _____ can I GROW MENTALLY (in wisdom) this year?

a. There is a _____ to follow if I want to grow in wisdom.

PROVERBS 2 (TNIV)

¹My son, if you **accept** my words and **store up** my commands within you,

²*turning your ear* to wisdom

and **applying your heart** to understanding—

³indeed, if you **call out** for insight [in prayer; see James 1:5]

and **cry aloud** for understanding,

⁴and if you **look for it as for silver**

and **search for it as for hidden treasure**,

⁵**THEN you will understand** the fear of the LORD

and **find the knowledge of God**.

Notice how each phrase intensifies the previous one:

- "Accept" implies _____.
 - One "stores up" what one _____. ("memorize")
 - "turning your ear" involves attention; _____ it out.
 - "applying your heart": allowing it to penetrate your _____.
 - "call out": that is, in _____.
 - "cry aloud": an _____ of prayer.
 - "look for it": treat it like a _____ hunt!
 - "search for it": a great deal of _____ & sacrifice must be expended to get it!
 - "THEN" = if you follow this path, this will be the _____!
- (a) "you will understand the fear of the LORD" —
and that's the very starting point of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; Job 28:28)
- (b) "and find the knowledge of God" —
ICB: "Then you will begin to know God."—
ISV: "and learn to know God."—
NCV: "and you will find that you know God."—
NIRV: "You will find out how to know God."

b. There is a _____ to follow if I want to grow in wisdom.

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom;
from HIS mouth come knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose WALK is blameless,
⁸ for he guards the COURSE of the just
and protects the WAY of his faithful ones.

⁹ THEN you will understand what is RIGHT and JUST and FAIR —
every good PATH.

¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

¹¹ Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

- **Wisdom comes from _____.**

JAMES 1:5 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God,
who gives generously to all without finding fault,
and it will be given to you.

ROMANS 16:27 (NIV)

...to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

JUDE 25 (NKJV)

To God our Savior, who alone is wise, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

- **Wisdom comes from _____.**

LUKE 11:31 (LIVING BIBLE)

“the queen of Sheba...went on a long, hard journey to listen to the wisdom of Solomon;
but one far greater than Solomon is here and few pay any attention.

COLOSSIANS 2:2-3 (NIV)

...in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- **Wisdom comes from the Holy _____.**

ISAIAH 11:2 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM
and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord —

EPHESIANS 1:17 (NIV)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,
may give you THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM & revelation, so that you may know him better.

- **Wisdom comes from God's _____.**

PSALM 119:97-98 (NIV)

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your instruction!

I meditate on it all day long.

⁹⁸ Your commands are always with me
and make me wiser than my enemies.

- **Wisdom comes from realizing your _____.**

PSALM 90:12 (TNIV)

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

NLTse: “Teach us to realize the brevity of life.”