

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Boy Jesus taught Israel's teachers. The eternal Wisdom of God took on Flesh in the Boy that astonishes them by His understanding and His answers. They searched the Scriptures, but these are they that testify of Him. The Last Adam, Abraham's Son and Lord, the Seed promised to the first man, the Son who would bear the wood for His own sacrificial altar, the Promised Anointed Shepherd King who would be the only perfect Lamb, the long-awaited Savior had come.

And although the Ark of the Covenant was long gone, while that Boy blessed the Temple sands with His Divine Presence, the God who dwelt between the Cherubim now returns to the Temple. Twelve years ago Simeon had held Him there, as Anna foretold His praise and glory. So as Israel's teachers gathered, the only True God, yet unknown to them, One among them whom they did not know, as the Baptizer referred to Him, the Incarnate God listened to their teaching and asked them questions.

Having kept the Law by His attendance at the pilgrim feast, He remained in the Temple. When Solomon dedicated the Temple it was for God's Name to dwell in. So now the Name of God Incarnate remains in the Temple built for Him. And there, in the House built for His Name, He listened to Israel's teachers and asked questions. That is the way He had dealt with sinners before. He asked them questions: "Where are you?" "Who told you that you were naked?" "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

The questions were not for Him. They were for the first man and his wife, that they learn of their sin and God's grace. So too now the questions are not for the Boy, but for those who hear them. Through the Spirit that proceeds from the Father and the Son the same Boy that taught Israel's teachers wrote the Scriptures they struggled to understand. Through Him the equator was placed, the dry ground gathered, the seas bound to their limits. He was before the creation, He knew earth when it was formless and void. At His Word the light drove away the darkness that covered the abyss.

The Patriarchs believed in Him. The Prophets pointed to Him. But Israel's teachers still did not believe who He is. Had they believed, they would have fallen down and worshipped. They would have torn their clothes and begged God's mercy. And in a demonstration of the great love and mercy of God, now Israel's teachers do not fare as did Nadab and Abihu, although they were in the consuming Presence of the same God, now veiled in human flesh.

He is the Wisdom of God Incarnate. They should not have been astonished at His understanding. He understands celestial Truths of which they are not worthy to ask. The Scriptures testify of Him. He is the Center of Holy Writ. And if you would know God aright, if you would know the Holy Divine Truths and the Mystery of the eternal Trinity, you must do so through God the Son. And hearing the inspired account of St. Luke, you learn much about the God through whom you were made, the God who redeemed you.

Three is the number of the Triune God. Four is the number of the earth. So at the age of three times four, the God who became an earthly Man sits in the Temple. He keeps the law because

He is a Man, and man must. He is inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood. But He keeps the Law perfectly, which no mere man can do. And as the Divine nature permeates the Human Nature of the One Person of the Christ, eternal heavenly Wisdom is shown forth in the questions of a twelve year-old Boy.

His mother and Joseph, to whom had been revealed the Sacred Mystery, were amazed. Mary saw the Archangel Gabriel. Joseph twice saw holy angels in his dreams, which gave him instructions concerning the same Boy that now teaches Israel's teachers. But those teachers of Israel who heard Him would soon cry out for His death, proof that although they were astonished at His understanding and answers, still they did not believe.

It is to Mary that the Lord gives the clearest lesson. He does in respectfully and in love, perfectly keeping the Fourth Commandment. But to keep the Fourth Commandment, He must confess Who His Father is. While He showed Joseph love and respect, Joseph was not His father. They should not have sought Him thus, they should have known that He must be among the things of His Father. And the Things of His Father were there, in the Temple.

So He could not be among the company returning from the Passover. All of Things of His True Father pointed to Him. The rituals and sacrifices all pointed to Him. Therein, in Him, is your salvation. For in His sacrifice of Himself on the cross, by His atoning Sacrifice, the One who was not in the company traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee grafts you in to the company of angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

Christ became your Brother, a Man like you, to redeem you body and soul. And if God the Son is your Brother, then His Father is your Father. So you are made the true holy family, the Church of Christ. And in that Church, you receive the saving Gifts of God. Christ places His Word into you through preaching, the Word that brings faith and life. He places His Body and Blood with Bread and Wine, and faith is amazed at the Mystery, as you eat and drink Christ, partaking of His Divine nature by the Sacramental Union.

Although it passes human understanding, nonetheless the Mystery of the Personal Union of the Divine and Human natures in the One Christ is made manifest in St. Luke's account. For as a man He returned to Nazareth and was subject to Mary and Joseph. But as His Divine Nature worked through His Human Nature, He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God.

So the account of the Boy Jesus in the Temple, while an historic fact, is much more than that. By it the Lord who taught Israel's teachers teaches you – He teaches you of Himself, He teaches you of His Divinity, He teaches you of the salvation He alone can bring. And that He does by you remaining among His Things, among the Holy Things, the things of this House of God.

And you grow in favor with men, those redeemed of Christ, as you are with them, many members of the same one Body, the Body of which Christ is Head. And by the Things of Christ, by His Word and Sacraments, by the Spirit He sends, you grow in wisdom and favor with God.

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