

'THE REST OF THE STORY'
('Rightly Dividing the Word' about Christ's Life)
Applying the Life of Christ to Our Lives

The Kosher Home of Christ

(Proverbs 24:3-4)

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 6 Job 1 Psalm 78 Psalm 128 Luke 2:51-52

Age Categories of Jesus

Child to Twelve

Luke 2:39-40

Proverbs 1-9

Twelve, Teens, Twenties

Luke 2:41-50

Proverbs 10-18

Twenties to Thirty +

Luke 2:51-52

Proverbs 19-24

- Assuming He lived a flawless life, what do you think Jesus was like at home during these stages?
- How do you think Jesus influenced His parents and siblings growing up in a biblical way at home?
- Jesus was a lifetime 'single' (*Do you think family or friends ever tried to nudge him toward having a girlfriend and getting married to some nice Jewish girl? If so, how do you think He handled it?*).
- Talk about His experience of having a parent die (*Joseph died probably when Jesus was a teen or young adult*)? And becoming the head of a family (*eldest son in a family when the father dies*)? Or being in a single parent home (*Mary after Joseph died*)?
- Jesus returned to heaven at age 33, but talk about the kind of middle-aged man He would have been? How about an older guy? What kind of elderly senior do you think He would have been?
- Since He didn't get to model some of these stages of life, have you considered Jesus' desires to do so in and through the lives of you and other Christians as you go through the stages of life?

The Christian Home of Christians

(Matthew 19:4-6, 13-15)

New Testament

Child to Twelve

Ephesians 6:1-4

2 Timothy 1:4-5

Twelve, Teens, Twenties

Colossians 3:18-21

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Twenties to Thirty +

Titus 2:6-8

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Timothy's life is easily traced through **Acts** and some of Paul's Epistles. This young man (*around age 30*) became an outstanding Christian as a kid, local church worker as a teen, a successful missionary, apostolic representative, and a young adult pastor. All of this despite being raised in a home with a dad who wasn't saved and probably died before Timothy left home and was led to faith by his mother and grandmother.

- How is it possible that he became such an outstanding man of God in a home with such challenges?
- Talk about similar challenges or privileges you are having or have had in the past, God has used or is using to mature you and shape your Christian life.

Holy Christian Home 'Conflict'

(Getting real about occasional conflict in 'nearly' perfect Christian families)

Luke 2:46-52

*(age 12 – in public & at home)
In front of His religious
teachers*

John 2:1-5

*(age 30 – social event)
In front of His
disciples*

Mark 3:20-21, 31-35

*(age 32 – ministry event)
In front of His
congregation*

In each of these incidents where there was apparent tension between Jesus and members of His earthly family, notice Jesus' response to those causing the tension, their response to Him and the ability of everyone to rebound, get over the matter and move on. Is this the way you and other Christians in your family address conflicts? Why is it so important to have minor conflicts and be able to learn within the family context how to address them and your own feelings in a way that is biblical and pleasing to God?

- What do you learn from Mary's occasional difficulty in seeing Jesus not as her little boy anymore, but God's Man, under His control, not hers?
 - Talk about the problem of parents (especially moms) not being able to stop trying to control their young adult kids?

- Talk about how it seems Mary and the family accepted what Jesus said and didn't try to exert control over Him.
 - Why is it that many parents seem to think they must always 'get the last word' and always win every conflict that arises?

- How does Jesus way of handling these kinds of conflicts give Christian parents and their teens or young adults a good model for growing through conflict resolution instead of damaging one another?
 - Is this the way it is in your family?
 - What can you do to make handling of conflicts more like Jesus' way in the future?

- What do you learn from Jesus' very tactful, respectful way of talking with His parents and family, even when they were clearly wrong about something?

- Please notice Jesus' respect for family members while still living at home and after when He had moved out on His own.
 - Please see that the relationship with His mother changed from being a Child under her authority to being her best friend, but He never ceased to respect her (*Joseph too, as long as he was alive*).

- Is this the way your relationship with your parents (or your adult children no longer at home) has evolved?
 - Why is this important, not only to your parents (or guardians), but also to your future spouse if God leads you be married?