

Luke 2:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Analysis

Joseph and Mary's performance of 'all things according to the law of the Lord' demonstrates comprehensive obedience to God's revealed will. Their return to Nazareth 'their own city' indicates they fulfilled all Jerusalem temple obligations before resuming normal life. The phrase 'according to the law' emphasizes that obedience characterized Jesus's family from the beginning. Their return to Galilee (Nazareth) seemingly contradicts Matthew's account of Egypt flight, which chronologically follows this, showing Luke focuses on legal/temple obedience while Matthew emphasizes persecution/protection. Their faithfulness in ceremonial matters models that true faith expresses itself through careful adherence to God's requirements.

Historical Context

Completion of purification, presentation, and sacrificial obligations allowed the family to return home. Nazareth in Galilee became Jesus's hometown where He was raised, fulfilling the prophecy that He would be 'called a Nazarene' (Matt 2:23). Their obedience before returning shows prioritizing God's commands over personal comfort.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does comprehensive obedience ('all things according to the law') reveal about genuine faith?
2. How does prioritizing God's requirements before personal comfort demonstrate true devotion?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus's family characterized by careful obedience to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ ὡς ἐτέλεσαν ἄπαντα τὰ κατὰ τὸν νόμον
And when they had performed all things according to the law
G2532 G5613 G5055 G3588 G2596 G3588 G3551

κυρίου ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν
of the Lord they returned into Galilee into city
G2962 G5290 G1519 G3588 G1056 G1519 G3588 G4172

αὐτῶν Ναζαρέτ
G846 Nazareth
G3478

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:4 (Parallel theme): And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

Matthew 3:15 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Luke 2:51 (Parallel theme): And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.