

Luke 2:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Analysis

After three days searching, Jesus' parents 'found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.' At age 12, Jesus demonstrates extraordinary wisdom and spiritual understanding. The phrase 'in the midst of the doctors' (Greek 'en mesō tōn didaskalōn,' ἐν μέσῳ τῶν διδασκάλων) shows Jesus as eager learner, yet His questions reveal depth beyond His years. This scene foreshadows His later teaching ministry where He astonishes crowds with wisdom and authority. Even as a boy, Jesus prioritizes spiritual learning and His Father's house.

Historical Context

The 'doctors' were scribes and rabbis—learned teachers of the law who gathered in temple courts to discuss Torah. Teaching occurred through question-and-answer dialogue, with advanced students asking probing questions to clarify understanding. That twelve-year-old Jesus engaged these scholars demonstrates His advanced spiritual insight. Age 12-13 marked Jewish boys' transition to religious majority (bar mitzvah), making this temple visit particularly significant. Jesus' behavior showed readiness for religious responsibility and hint of His unique identity.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does twelve-year-old Jesus' engagement with teachers in the temple reveal about His developing self-awareness of His mission?
2. How does Jesus' pattern of listening and asking questions model proper approach to learning spiritual truth?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐγένετο	μεθ'	ἡμέρας	τρεις	εὗρον	αὐτούς·	ἐν
And	it came to pass	that after	days	three	they found	him	in
G2532	G1096	G3326	G2250	G5140	G2147	G846	G1722
τῷ	ἱερῷ	καθεζόμενον	ἐν	μέσῳ	τῶν	διδασκάλων	
G3588	the temple	sitting	in	the midst	G3588	of the doctors	
	G2411	G2516	G1722	G3319		G1320	
καὶ	ἀκούοντα	αὐτούς·	καὶ	ἐπερωτῶντα	αὐτούς·		
And	hearing	him	And	asking	him		
G2532	G191	G846	G2532	G1905	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 5:17 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Isaiah 50:4 (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Acts 5:34 (Parallel theme): Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

Matthew 12:40 (Parallel theme): For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

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