

Luke 2:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus 'went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them.' Despite His divine identity and temple incident, Jesus submitted to His parents' authority. The Greek 'hypotassomenos' (ὑποτασσόμενος, was subject/submissive) indicates continuous voluntary submission. This demonstrates Jesus' full humanity and His perfect obedience to the law, including the fifth commandment to honor parents. His submission doesn't contradict His divine mission but fulfills it—the Son must learn obedience (Hebrews 5:8) and perfectly keep the law He came to fulfill.

Historical Context

The phrase 'went down' from Jerusalem to Nazareth reflects geographical reality—Jerusalem sits on high elevation, making travel to Galilee literally a descent. Jesus returned to obscurity for 18 more years (ages 12-30), growing up in Joseph's carpentry trade, living as an ordinary village craftsman. This hidden period demonstrates incarnation's fullness—the eternal Son genuinely lived human experience, submitting to parents, learning a trade, participating in community life. His later ministry's power emerged from these years of faithful, humble living.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' submission to Mary and Joseph after the temple incident demonstrate the compatibility of divine identity with genuine humanity?
2. What does Jesus' return to 18 years of obscurity teach about the importance of faithful living in hidden, ordinary circumstances?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	κατέβη	μετ'	αὐτῆς	καὶ	ἦλθεν	εἰς	Ναζαρέτ	καὶ
And	he went down	with	his	And	came	to	Nazareth	And
G2532	G2597	G3326	G846	G2532	G2064	G1519	G3478	G2532
ἦν	ὑποτασσόμενος	αὐτῆς	καὶ	ἡ	μήτηρ	αὐτῆς	διετήρει	
was	subject	his	And	G3588	mother	his	kept	
G2258	G5293	G846	G2532		G3384	G846	G1301	
πάντα	τὰ	ῥήματα	ταῦτα	ἐν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	αὐτῆς	
all	G3588	sayings	these	in	G3588	heart	his	
G3956		G4487	G5023	G1722		G2588	G846	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:19 (Parallel theme): But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Daniel 7:28 (Parallel theme): Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Genesis 37:11 (Parallel theme): And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Mark 6:3 (Parallel theme): Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

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