

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS

International Sunday School Lesson for October 13, 1940

Golden Text: "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."—Luke 2:32.

Lesson Text: Luke 2:40-52

When the infant Jesus was forty days old, his parents went up to the temple at Jerusalem to redeem him, according to the custom of the Jews. This ceremony was necessary because every first-born son was supposed to be set aside for the priesthood. In order to acknowledge this claim of God, where it was not to be literally carried out, parents presented the child to the priest and, after benedictions for the law of redemption and for the gift of a son, offered redemption money.

Living in Jerusalem at this time was a man named Simeon, described as righteous and devout. Simeon was "looking for the consolation of Israel," the coming of the promised Messiah, and as soon as he saw the baby Jesus, he recognized him as the promised one and uttered the hymn known as "Unc Dimittis."

Another devout person who saw and recognized Jesus as the Messiah was Anna, a prophetess, who, meeting the holy family in the temple, gave thanks and testified concerning him to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel.

After this visit to the temple, we hear nothing of the holy family until after the twelfth birthday of the boy Jesus. When a Jewish boy reached the age of twelve, he was taught the observance of the law, for at the age of thirteen, he put on phylacteries for daily prayers and became a "son of the law."

As Mary and Joseph were very pious Jews, they faithfully carried out all the laws and ceremonies. Jesus had formerly seen his parents go yearly to Jerusalem to attend the religious feasts, leaving him at home; now he went up with them for the first time. We can easily imagine the eagerness and pleasant anticipation which filled the heart of this young boy as he accompanied his parents and their relatives and friends on their journey.

When the ceremonials were over and the parents were returning from Jerusalem, they discovered after a day's journey from the city, that the boy Jesus was not in the crowd journeying home. While some are prone to accuse Mary and Joseph of carelessness in their care of the young boy, such a thing could easily have happened. They naturally assumed that he was accompanying some relatives or friends, presumably boys of his own age who were making the same journey and that, at dusk, when they were ready to retire for the night, he would find them. They became alarmed when they discovered that he was not in the company and immediately returned to Jerusalem

to search for him. When they found him, he was in the temple, sitting in the midst of the rabbis, listening to them and asking them questions. The rabbis and all those who were listening to the discussions were amazed at the understanding with which the mind of this young child grasped the truth and replied to the questions addressed to him.

"St. Luke here suggests that Christ's knowledge was limited by his human nature," says Rev. H. G. Woods. "He does not represent Jesus as teaching the rabbis, but as hearing them and asking them questions. It is true that they questioned him in their turn, and were amazed at his intelligence and answers, but the account implies that he was mainly a listener and learner. He was asking for information because there were things that he did not know.

The inquiring mind has a perfect right to ask questions. God did not place an intelligent mind in the body of man nor create His universe so that questions could not be asked and the truth found by honest search. He does not require any of us to accept blindly; a sincere, courageous search for the truth will inevitably lead to it and God is willing for His wisdom and His providence to be tested fairly and conscientiously.

In answer to his parents' question, Jesus inquired if they did not know that he should be in his Father's house. "There are two things manifested in the example of Jesus at this point and that are specially pertinent to young manhood and young womanhood everywhere," says Rev. Thomas Sims. "They are the answers to two questions: First, Who am I? Second, What am I here for? The answer to the first question is, I am a son of God. The answer to the second is, I am here to help forward my Father's business. You will go a long way before you strike a philosophy of life and being that is more satisfying than that."

Verse fifty-two reveals an all-rounded progressive development by Jesus. It is a model for all life. This little verse embraces the increase of intelligence which should come with years, the strengthening of the physical body which comes with proper care and observance of natural law, the social favor which always surrounds one who is good and kind to his neighbors, and, finally, the increasing closeness with God, the result of correct living and intimate communion with Him.

Jesus' home training was ideal as Dean Edward D. Golburn points out: "I need not say that what was going on in that quiet house at Nazareth was, beyond all comparison, the most important thing going on in the world at that time. The world's salvation was being reared in that carpenter's shop."

## OAK GROVE

Mrs. W. T. Bunch and daughter, Dorothy, called on Mrs. Jesse Nixon Tuesday afternoon.

Misses Thelma and Elizabeth Byrum visited Mrs. R. P. Morris Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. J. B. Bunch and daughter, Beulah, called on Mrs. Lonnie Bunch Tuesday afternoon.

Misses Helen Mae and Elizabeth Byrum and Thelma Byrum visited Miss Lillie Mae Toppins Saturday

afternoon. Mrs. H. C. Byrum and daughters, Mabel and Gladys, spent Tuesday as guests of Mrs. Anna M. Byrum. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bunch and family were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bunch Saturday evening. Misses Mabel and Gladys Byrum called to see Misses Dorothy Mae and Marie Bunch Saturday afternoon. Frank Byrum and Roy Goodwin, of Fort Monroe, Va., were at their respective homes for the week-end. Guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Byrum on Sunday were: Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lane and children, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lane as dinner guests. Afternoon guests included Miss Sarah Nixon, of Dillard's Mill; Mrs. Rob Byrum and children, Miss Thelma Byrum and Roy Goodwin. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bunch and family called.

## MERRY HILL

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Simpkins and Mrs. Sue Wilson, of Norfolk, Va., were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keeter.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jolly and children and Mrs. Jane Wiggins, of Suffolk, Va., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Outlaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols Roberson and children, Misses Eloise and Janie Andrews, of Parmele, and J. R. Freeman, of Gates, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Phelps and family on Sunday.

Miss Nellie Gray Phelps, of Wadesboro, spent the week-end with her sister, Miss Celia Phelps.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Newbern, of Williamston, visited Mr. and Mrs. Bruce White Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cobb, of Portsmouth, Va., were week-end guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Bowen and Mr. and Mrs. Shade Cobb.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Smithwick, Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson White, Miss Irene Cowan and J. B. Smithwick motored to Raleigh Sunday.

Raleigh Eugene Phelps, student at Chowan College, Murfreesboro, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Phelps.

Charlie Keeter, of Newport News, Va., was the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keeter, during the week-end.

Leonard Lane, of Aulander, visited here Monday.

Mrs. J. A. Williams, Misses Nancy Haislip, Ruth Hollowell, Celia Garren and Marjorie Burkett spent Saturday in Norfolk, Va.

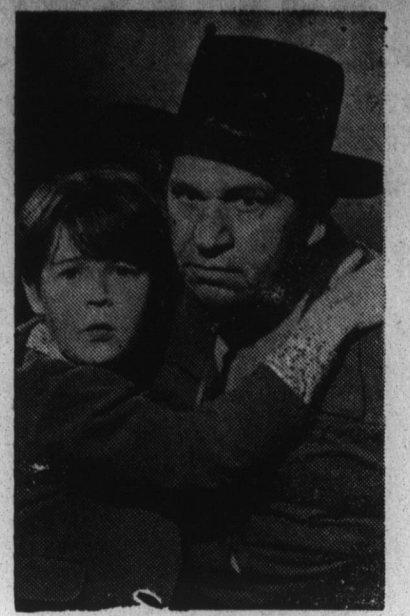
Miss Thelma Phelps, who is a student at Norfolk Business College, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Phelps, during the week-end.

Ellis Edwards, who has been stationed at Panama, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mallory.

Mrs. Celia Phelps, Beulah, Mittie Sue and Vivian White and William White visited relatives in Williamston Saturday evening.

J. E. Spidmore, of High Point, and Plymouth Hitchcox, of Greensboro, spent the past week with Eugene Phelps.

Those who visited Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Winborne and Mrs. T. E. Lowe on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Bowen and children, Edward, Wayne and Elaine, of Portsmouth, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Keeter, of Norfolk, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bowen and daughter, Joyce, Anne Spivey, Mrs. G. E. Keeter, Miss Hazel Keeter, Sidney Keeter and Henry Ward Evans, of Windsor; Miss Mary Winborne, Miss Evelyn Saunders, Thomas Winborne and Bill Mizelle, of near Harrellsville.



Little Bobs Watson and Wallace Beery as they appear in "Wyoming," saga of the pioneer West, at Taylor Theatre, Edenton, Monday and Tuesday.

Statement Of The Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc., Required By The Acts Of Congress Of August 24, 1912, and March 3, 1933 Of The Chowan Herald published weekly at Edenton, N. C., for October 1, 1940.

State of North Carolina County of Chowan

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared J. Edwin Bufflap, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of The Chowan Herald and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation) etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse side of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The Chowan Herald, Edenton, N. C. Editor, J. Edwin Bufflap, Edenton, N. C. Business Manager, Hector Lupton, Edenton, N. C.
2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or

holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

J. Edwin Bufflap, Edenton, N. C. Hector Lupton, Edenton, N. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under

which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustee, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

J. EDWIN BUFFLAP, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of October, 1940.

W. H. GARDNER, Notary Public.

(My Commission expires 5-31-41).

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