

A STORY FROM THE BOYHOOD OF CHRIST⁴⁵

The Bible tells us very little about the boyhood of Jesus. All we know is what Jesus' disciple Luke, in the Gospel, writes...

At that time, when a Jewish boy became twelve or thirteen He was expected to attend the Temple in Jerusalem. From that time, he was regarded as a full member of the Jewish Church, sharing in all its duties and privileges. So, when Jesus was twelve, Mary and Joseph, His parents, took Him to Jerusalem.

It was at the Feast of the Passover when people travelled to Jerusalem from all over Palestine. How thrilled Jesus must have felt to catch his first glimpse of Jerusalem, with the morning sun reflected from its spires of gold. As He mingled with the crowds of pilgrims thronging the Temple, passing along its terraces and colonnades of white marble and gleaming gold, His mind must have turned to His Father in Heaven Whose will on earth He had come to do.

At the end of the Passover, Mary and Joseph started out on the homeward journey. They thought that Jesus was with a group of His friends, but when they made camp that first night He was nowhere to be found.

They hurried back to Jerusalem, calling into likely places where He might be found. At last they thought of the Temple and made their way there. As they were going along one of the pillared terraces they came to a group of religious teachers, and there in the midst of them was Jesus! As they drew near to the group, they could see that everyone was amazed at the kind of questions Jesus was asking the teachers, and the kind of answers He was returning to their questions. For a boy of twelve, His knowledge and understanding of the Old Testament greatly astonished them all.

Mary went forward to Jesus and said, "My Son, why have you frightened us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You."

"Why did you search for Me?" Jesus replied. "Did you not know I had to be about My Father's business?"

They did not understand Him then, but, as Luke tells us, "His mother kept all these sayings in her heart." Luke goes on to say that Jesus "went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. ... And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.