

Sermon Outline

Prepared for the Cross

Luke 2:41-51

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2007

We must not hastily bypass the inspired record of Jesus' early life prior to the unfolding of his public ministry and journey to Jerusalem to offer himself for our sins and rise on the third day. In an early journey to Jerusalem that very purpose is clearly revealed. My contention would be that all the events of his childhood point directly to his cross and resurrection.

The chiastic structure of the events in chapters 2-3 reveal the cross and resurrection at the center of Jesus' life and mission.

1 - Birth as God's Son Revealed (Words of Angels to Shepherds): Luke 2:10-11

2 - Circumcision: Luke 2:21

3 - Presentation in Temple; rite of purification: Luke 2:34-35

4 - Return to Nazareth where the Child grows in wisdom, with God's favor upon him: Luke 2:39-40

5 - Visit to the Temple and disputation; "found" after 3 days: Luke 2:46-50

4' - Return to Nazareth where the Child grows in wisdom, with God's favor upon him: Luke 2:51-52

3' - Presentation in Wilderness; John's baptismal rite for Israel's purification: Luke 3:3-6

2' - Baptism: Luke 3:21-22

1' - Birth as God's Son Revealed (Words of Father at Jordan) : Luke 3:22

The whole course of Jesus' life and work will take him to Jerusalem at the Passover to once again go to the Temple and engage the leadership there with the questions of the kingdom and of God's Messiah. As a youth he impressed them; as an adult he angered them. Ultimately he gave his life for those he loved that all the world might truly have a Savior.