

Lutheran Confessions

Apology VI, 52, 61-64

Besides, saints are subject to death, and all general afflictions, as 1 Peter 4, 17 says: *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?* And although these afflictions are for the most part the punishments of sin, **yet in the godly they have a better end, namely, to exercise them, that they may learn amidst trials to seek God's aid, to acknowledge the distrust of their own hearts, etc.**, as Paul says of himself, 2 Cor. 1, 9: *But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.* And Isaiah says, 26, 16: *They poured out prayer when Thy chastening was upon them, i.e., afflictions are a discipline 55] by which God exercises the saints....*

60] ...And although afflictions still remain, yet Scripture interprets these as the mortifications of present sin [to kill and humble the old Adam], and not as the compensations of eternal death or as prices for eternal death.

61] Job is excused that he was not afflicted on account of past evil deeds; **therefore afflictions are not always punishments or signs of wrath.** Yea, terrified consciences are to be taught that other ends of afflictions are more important [that they should learn to regard troubles far differently, namely, **as signs of grace**], lest they think that they are rejected by God when in afflictions they see nothing but God's punishment and anger. The other more important ends are to be considered, namely, *that God is doing His strange work so that He may be able to do His own work, etc.*, as Isaiah 28 teaches in a long discourse. ...**63]** Therefore afflictions are not always punishments for certain past deeds, but they are **the works of God, intended for our profit, and that the power of God might be made more manifest in our weakness** [how He can help in the midst of death].

Thus Paul says, 2 Cor. 12, 5, 9: *The strength of God is made perfect in my weakness.* Therefore, because of God's will, our bodies ought to be sacrifices, to declare our obedience [and patience], and not to compensate for eternal death. for which God has another price, namely, **64]** the death of His own Son. (Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

O Lord, we implore You mercifully to receive the prayers of Your people who call upon You, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** (*Collect for The First Sunday after the Epiphany*)

Word of God: St. Luke 2:41-52 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. What did the Torah require concerning attendance at major Jewish feasts (Ex 23:14-17, 34:23, Dt 16:16)?
2. Was is significant about Jesus being twelve years old? (manhood)
3. Jesus must have thought that Joseph and Mary were leaving Him to complete his training. Who else was left at the Temple? See 1 Samuel 1, especially 2:26!
4. A day of travel away from Jerusalem and then a day back. That they found Jesus on the third day is a reminder of what?
5. Why is the Boy Jesus listening and asking questions?
6. Those who were amazed should have had what epiphany about Jesus? Even more than that, why were Jesus' parents shocked?
7. Jesus knows who He is, and His "understanding and His answers" teaches us that He knows what His vocation is to be. Who is Jesus? What is His work for us?
8. The question "Didn't you know..." implies that they should have known that they were looking in the wrong place. They found Jesus in the Temple. Where do you find Jesus today?
9. Why did they "not understand?" (v.50)
10. In keeping with the 4th commandment, Jesus remains with them until He begins His Ministry. When was that? (Lk 3:21)
11. Mary "treasured" all these things in her heart. What do we do with the mysteries of the faith? (1 Tim 3:16, 1 Cor 4:1, Eph 5:32)
12. What are the two area of human growth described in verse 52?

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn TLH #116, stanza 2
Holy Baptism, Part Two
Isaiah 28:21

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses
"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise
"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia." p.225

Reading
St. Luke 2:41-52 (back)

Hymn
"To The Name of Our Salvation"(Insert)

Catechesis on... (back)
St. Luke 2:41-52
Liturgy
Catechism

--prayer based on reading
+ Responsive Prayer for Catechesis (insert)

Ten Commandments
Lord's Prayer
Apostles' Creed
Psalm 1
Collect of the Day
Prayers based on the text
The Collect for Peace
Benedicamus
Benediction

Catechesis on St. Luke 2:41-52

His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; ⁴⁴but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." ⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

⁵¹Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (NKJV)

Word of God

For it will not do to frame articles of faith from the works or words of the holy Fathers; otherwise their kind of fare, of garments, of house, etc., would have to become an article of faith, as was done with relics. [We have, however, another rule, namely] The rule is: The Word of God shall establish articles of faith, and no one else, not even an angel. (Smalcald Articles, II, II, 15)

Vocation

68] For good works are to be done on account of God's command, likewise for the exercise of faith [as Paul says, Eph. 2, 10: *We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works*], and on account of confession and giving of thanks.... **71]** ... We think thus also concerning **every good work in the humblest callings and in private affairs. Through these works Christ celebrates His victory over the devil**, just as the distribution of alms by the Corinthians, 1 Cor. 16, 1, was a holy work, and a sacrifice and contest of Christ against the devil, who labors that nothing may be done **72]** for the praise of God. To disparage **such works, the confession of doctrine, affliction, works of love, mortifications of the flesh**, would be indeed to disparage the outward government of Christ's kingdom among men. (Ap IV, III, or Tappert 189, 192ff)

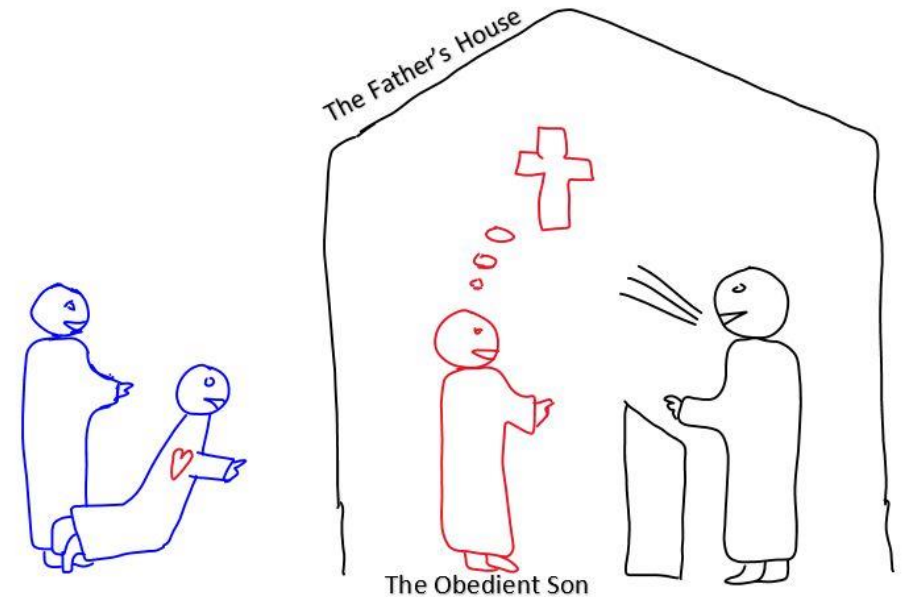
The Treasure: Salvation Proclaimed

"For neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe on Him, and obtain Him for our Lord, **unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Ghost through the preaching of the Gospel.** The work is done and accomplished; for Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, etc. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew of it, then it would be in vain and lost. That this treasure, therefore, might not lie buried, but be appropriated and enjoyed, **God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed, in which He gives the Holy Ghost to bring this treasure home and appropriate it to us.** 39] Therefore sanctifying is nothing else than bringing us to Christ to receive this good, to which we could not attain of ourselves" (Large Catechism, II, 38-39)

Affliction

45] And of the mortification of the flesh and discipline of the body we thus teach, just as the Confession states, that a true and not a feigned mortification occurs through **the cross and afflictions** by which God exercises us (when God breaks our will, inflicts the cross and trouble]. In these we must obey God's will, as Paul says, Rom. 12, 1: *Present your bodies a living sacrifice.* And these are the spiritual exercises of fear and faith. (Ap VIII, 45)

Catechesis On St. Luke 2:41-52



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