



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of August 3, 2025

Luke 2:39-51

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

1. What makes the incarnation of Jesus Christ - the eternal Son of God becoming fully man - such a mystery? How would you explain the tension of the incarnation?
2. In the fourth century, two early church leaders, Arias and Apollinaris, were deemed heretics for their teachings that either denied Jesus' full deity, or His full humanity. Why do you think it is so important that in the incarnation, Jesus was fully God? Why is it so important that He was fully man?
3. Why is it okay for Christians to say to skeptics that we cannot fully explain the incarnation? If it's unexplainable, why then should anyone believe it? Does Christianity fall apart because of this?
4. How does Jesus being fully man help us to understand how the Son of God could increase *in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man*. Hebrews 5:8 tells us that Jesus "learned obedience through what he suffered." Why should this comfort us in our trials?
5. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus is our great high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses because He too was in every respect tempted as we are, yet without sin. How does the incarnation help us to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need?