

### **SPIRITUAL RITE OF PASSAGE**

Why was Jesus not able to personally participate in the Passover service in (Luke 2:4), but was able to participate in (Luke 2:42-47)?

In Jewish culture, a child was introduced to the rite of passage into adulthood at the age of 12. This Passover (7 AD) will become one of many unforgettable Passovers for Jesus and His parents until His death on Passover (30 AD).

PERSONAL OBSERVATION: I have seen a great shift of the rite of passage in American culture in my life time. In today's American culture, this rite of passage is from adolescence (high school) through the college ages) (14-24yrs). My parent's rite of passage was from (13-17 yrs). My grandparent's rite of passage was from (12-14 yrs.)

**This lesson will study five aspects of the Spiritual Rite of Passage that results in God becoming your primary Father on earth as He is in heaven (Matt.6:9-10).**

#### **1. What is interesting about the story in today's lesson text is how God, the heavenly Father, began preparing Jesus and His parents for His Spiritual Rite of Passage.**

God was preparing Jesus' earthly parents for His Spiritual Rite of Passage and the exchange of the father's authority structure. It involved an exchange from the earthly father to the Heavenly Father.

In our lesson text, God had revealed His Fatherhood to Jesus by the age of 12.

(Luke 2:40) "Why is it that you are looking for me? Did you not know that **I had to be in My Father's house** (business or affairs)." "Did your not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:49b).

The Spiritual Rite of Passage involves the phasing out of primary to secondary roles of divine authority (Your earthly parents / earthly father – to - your Heavenly Father).

#### **2. As often is the case, the child recognized it before the parents.**

Jesus became keenly aware of it at the age of 12, but still remained connected to the divine authority family structure until about 26 (Luke 2:51-52; 3:1-3; 4:22; John 6:42).

- God did it with my wife, Jane, at the age of 12 at a GA. mission camp.
- God did it with me at the age of 24 while serving in the US Army at Womack Army Hospital.

#### **3. God publicly revealed His primary Fatherhood of Jesus when John the Baptist baptized Him (Matt.3:13-17).**

Many believed Joseph had fallen asleep prior to this declaration – "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matt.3:17b)

What God had privately revealed to Joseph and Mary in the virgin conception and pregnancy. He now revealed as part of the Messianic Fullness of Time (Luke 1:26-38; **Gal.4:4-5**; Matt.1:18-25)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, ’which translated means, ‘**God with us.**” (Matt.1:23; Isa.7:14)

It is very important for Christian parents (especially the Father) to train and prepare their Christian children for this Spiritual Rite of Passage, phasing out, and exchange of divine authority roles.

#### **4. We will make this point with Jacob’s parenting of his 12 sons and with special focus on Joseph.**

At the age of his Spiritual Rite of Passage, God began His Fatherhood training with Joseph, but Jacob was not spiritually ready and was unwilling to participate in this exchange (**Gen.37 and the prophetic dream**).

Thus Joseph’s prophetic dream turned into a nightmare for this entire family over the next 13 years (Gen.37-50/ 37:31-36; 42:36-38; 44:22, 29-34). God had to remove Joseph from his earthly father to connect him properly with his heavenly Father.

(Rom.8:28) “As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it** for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (Gen.50:20/ the prophetic dream fulfilled by heavenly Father.

#### **5. God becomes your Father the moment a person believes that Jesus died for his sins and was buried and raised on the third day (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Pet.1:23 ).**

God becomes your Father by adoption (Gal.4:4-7; Rom.8:15-17; Eph.1:4-5).

However, Christian parents, especially the fathers, are responsible to prepare both boys and girls for their Spiritual Rite of Passage until God is their primary Father.

### **Home Study**

Take this home and study it next week to understand the importance of parent’s role in the Spiritual Rite of Passage no matter what the age of the child.

**This Father’s Day** we are encouraging Christian parents (especially Christian Fathers) to take responsibility for the Spiritual Rite of Passage of their children.

The **following six reasons** will help you understand the important of the Spiritual Rite of Passage as part of Prov.22:6.

- God, their Father is always with them when you can’t be (Heb.13:5).
- God, their Father will never leave nor forsake them even when they do Him and you – prodigal Son (Luke 15:13-24). “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov.22:6)
- God, their Father will walk them through the valley of the shadow of death when you and no one else can (Ps.23:4; James 5:11).
- God, their Father will meet their needs even when you can’t and/or don’t know how (Phil.4:19).
- God, their Father can answer their painful prayers even when they can’t tell anyone else and especially you (1 John 5:14-15; John 15:7).
- God, their Father will forgive every sin and failure with love and compassion far beyond our limitations (Isa.1:18; 43:25; Ps.103:12; 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2; Luke 15:20, 28-32).

[See our eBook on Parenting](#)