

January 21, 2009
Class Notes/Jesus Early Life

Little is known of the early life of Jesus. Other than the birth stories in Matthew and Luke, there are only a couple of references to Jesus before he began his ministry. Read the text noted in bold.

Flight to Egypt

Read Matthew 2:13-23

Joseph does not question the angel, but picks up and flees immediately to Egypt. The sojourn and eventual departure fulfills the scripture in Hosea 11:1. Joseph's direction to go to Nazareth also fulfills the prophecy "He shall be called a Nazarene"

Jesus' Presentation at the Temple

Read Luke 2:21-40

Jesus runs away to the Temple

Luke 41-49

Summary of Jesus' early childhood

Luke 2:52

Lessons to take away from Jesus early life

- Worldly rulers are often opposed to God's rule
 - This is seen throughout Jesus life and the period following
 - Herod
 - Herod Antipas (imprisoned John the Baptist)
 - The leaders of Israel who plot against Jesus

Humble beginnings cannot hinder the advance of God's will

- Jesus' beginnings did not prevent him from doing great things
 - Even though he lived in exile early on
 - Even though he was raised in a town like Nazareth, despised by others
- Jesus humility should inspire us