

Women Encountering Jesus- Lesson #2: Mary, The Mother of Jesus as a Child

What are some cute/funny stories you would like to share of your kids?

What about a story about something that didn't turn out so well?

When you wonder how your kids will turn out, what are some of the things you imagine?

- Hopes and dreams?
- What are you most afraid of?

What do you think it was like to be Jesus' Mommy? Let's examine that.

Part One: Jesus the Baby

Luke 2:15-19; 25-33 and Matthew 2:7

1. Shepherds- Right after Jesus was born they came to see Jesus. When they saw, they spread the word and everyone was amazed.
2. Magi- Bowed down and worshipped him. This is when he was a toddler, probably in Bethlehem?
3. At the Temple (probably Jerusalem)- 8 days old. Simeon's prophecy to Mary. *'A sword will pierce your soul.'*

* We would all like to think our child is special. But Jesus was different.

- Not just that he had a cute smile or that he learned to say the word, 'dog.'

- Jesus was being worshipped!

* Mary was also told that Jesus would cause her much pain.

- She had to accept that.

- Do you think Mary may have tried to ignore this? Control it? Safeguard against it? What would you have done?

Do you think any of that mattered? Ultimately, Mary did not have any control over what happened to Jesus.

Do we ultimately have any control over our kids? What about our own lives?

Mary knew she was going to be asked to give up her son. What are we asked to give up?

Part Two: Jesus the Kid

Matthew 2:13-18/Luke 2:43-45, 48, 52

These scriptures talk about a lot of scenes in Jesus' childhood:

- Egypt
- Nazareth
- Going to the temple at 12 years old

Luke 2:40- *The child grew and became strong; he was filled wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.*

Hebrews 2:14-15/18- Jesus was fully human.

- Do you think Jesus had temper tantrums?
- Do you think Jesus the toddler did all the things toddlers do?
 - o Throw food?
 - o Spit up?
 - o Tell his Mom, 'No!'
- Mary would have nursed Jesus, changed his diapers, soothed him when he was sick and cranky.

At some point Jesus became aware of who He was, but do you think he was a perfect child?

Read between the lines. During this time, Mary (and Joseph)

- Protected Jesus
- Loved Jesus
- Trained Jesus
- Influenced Jesus

Mothers have an enormous influence on their children. Jesus would not have been an exception.

Do you think it is possible that God chose Mary because he knew she would train Jesus the kid in the way God wanted Jesus to be raised?

A number of times scripture says that *Mary treasured all these things in her heart.* (Luke 2: 51)

- What did she treasure?
- What do we treasure most about our children?
- Mary knew Jesus was unique but she still had to raise him.