The Evolution of Jesus

Zanesville, OH | March 17, 2019 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-52, 8:22-56

**Intro**:

* The life and story of Jesus the Christ is well known across the globe. There are not many people who have not heard about Him or who hold some belief or faith towards Him. Jesus is known for His ministry, the followers He had, the sermons He taught and the miracles He performed. He is known for standing up to the hypocritical religious leaders of the day and denouncing their sin. But beyond all that, the one thing almost everyone knows is that Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the dead. Most people have heard some version of that story before but long before Jesus got to that point, His story began as a baby boy in a manger in Bethlehem. The Gospel of Luke highlights for us, the **Evolution of Jesus**, from a baby to an adult. There are three major timelines that are given and beyond that we do not need to know anymore because what we are given is sufficient to see the **Evolution of Jesus as the Son of God.**

1. **Jesus as an Infant: Lk. 1:26-38; 2:7-21, 25-40**
   1. Jesus an infant, a toddler, a new-born, garnered as much attention as one could possibly imagine a baby would. His story begins with an angelic announcement to Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, who would no doubt witness the greatest things she has ever seen in her life by the greatest person to ever walk this earth.
   2. Notice from Lk. 1:26-38, the emphasis on the divine nature surrounding this child:
      1. *“Favored one, The Lord is with you”* (v. 28)
      2. *“You have found favor with God”* (v. 30)
      3. *“Name Him Jesus”* (v. 31)
      4. *“Son of the Most High God”* | *“Throne of His father David”* (v. 32)
      5. *“Reign over Jacob’s House”* | *“Kingdom without end”* (v. 33)
      6. *“Holy Spirit upon you”* | *“Power of Most High”* | *“Child Son of God”* (v. 35)
   3. The narrative now moves us along 9 months later when the child is born. Some Shepherds in the region are approached by an angel and brings great news (gospel). Notice the emphasis on the divine nature surrounding the child:
      1. *“A Savior, who is Christ the Lord”* (v. 11)
      2. *“Glory to God in the highest”* (v. 14)
      3. *“His name called Jesus”* (v. 21)
   4. As the Narrative continues in chapter 2, Jesus is being circumcised and presented in the temple according to the Law. Two faithful Jews, present in the temple, emphasize the divine nature surrounding the child:
      1. *“Looking for the consolation of Israel”* (v. 25)
      2. *“Seen the Lord’s Christ”* (v. 26)
      3. *“Seen Your Salvation”* (v. 30)
      4. *“Light of Revelation to Gentiles”* | *“Glory of Your people”* (v. 32)
      5. *“Giving thanks to God”* (v. 38)
   5. Luke summarizes the events of Jesus’s early childhood in v. 40. There is something clearly different about this child and we begin to see it clearer in the second timeline of His life.
2. **Jesus as a Twelve-Year Old: Lk. 2:41-52**
   1. The second timeline of Jesus comes at the age of twelve. We don’t know much about what happened between His infancy and now except what is said in v. 40 and that ought to be sufficient for us. The setting is the yearly Passover feast and Jesus is present with His family at the feast (vv. 41-42).
   2. After some time, the caravan departs unaware the boy is still in Jerusalem. After a day’s journey the parents realize He is not there and they return to Jerusalem (vv. 43-45). It is not until after 3 days that they discover Him in the temple where He was listening and asking questions (v. 46).
   3. This twelve-year-old Jesus isn’t just a curious young Jew who happened to stumble upon the religious leaders in the temple. He places Himself there on purpose and what follows is both astonishing and unexpected by everyone else except Jesus (vv. 47-48).
   4. When Mary and Joseph encounter Him, Mary speaks up explaining how frantic and fearful they were. She rebukes Him for staying behind and not being in the caravan as He should have been (v. 48).
   5. Jesus’ response is indicative of the wisdom and grace that was upon Him in v. 40 as He continued to grow. Jesus’ response constructs separation between Him and His parents. Jesus cares for His parents and loves them but they are not as important as God. God must take precedence in His life and He is aligning Himself with God’s purpose (v. 49).
   6. Jesus’ parents cannot make heads or tails of the response but Mary pondered on these things (cf. 2:19). Jesus returned with them and remained in subjection to them while growing in wisdom and stature and gaining favor from God and men (vv. 50-52).
3. **Jesus as an Adult: Lk. 8:22-56**
   1. The third and final timeline we have of Jesus’ life is as an adult. It has been 18 years since we last heard of Him and thus the anticipation has been built up and the flood gates are ready to give way. That’s exactly the point of the timelines.
   2. The fullest realization of Jesus and who He is (The Son of God) is seen in Luke 8. Luke 8 records four distinct miracles of Jesus, each pointing towards a particular message of significance. The first two timelines of His life now converge to illustrate the majestic reality of who Jesus is:
   3. **The Calming of the Storm (Lk. 8:22-25).** The miracle of Jesus calming the storm is not unfamiliar to most of you but it most certainly exemplifies the reality that Jesus is the Creator of the universe. The baby boy that garnered so much attention and was magnified and praised in accordance with divine will, the twelve-year-old boy that stood in the temple on equal footing with the teachers of the Law, He is now shown to be the CREATOR! He is not just the Son of God, but God Himself.
   4. **Casting out the Legion of Demons (Lk. 8:26-39).** The miracle of Jesus casting out thousands of demons from a man emphasizes His role as the Conquering King! He is indeed the Messiah and the Son of God. This is not just merely Jesus helping a guy out who up until that point was essentially insane. This is about Jesus conquering Satan and showing us that all spiritual forces are in subjection to Him (v. 28). Jesus is the Son of God who has come to hand Satan the crushing blow he will never recover from.
   5. **Healing a Woman with a Hemorrhage (Lk. 8:43-48).** The miracle on the way to another miracle is both striking and powerful. This woman had a problem for 12 years and nobody could help her, let alone heal her. Yet, all it took was a simple touch of Jesus’ garment and she was healed. Jesus has the power to heal anything and everything with even the littlest of touches. It does not take much because He is that powerful. He is the Son of God and the Redeemer who came to save man from the worst of his problems: SIN.
   6. **Raising Jairus’ Daughter from the Dead (Lk. 8:40-42, 49-56).**  The final miracle in this chapter is in a lot of ways the most impactful. Jesus, after having been delayed for a little while, finally arrives at Jairus’ residence only to learn the little girl is dead. Someone speaks up and tells Jairus not to bother Jesus anymore since the girl is dead. But Jesus says it’s okay, she is only sleeping. He arrives and He brings her back to life! Not even death, that which is final, is too difficult for Jesus to overcome. He is the Son of God and God Himself who has the power to defeat death!

**Conclusion:** What’s the point of these 3 timelines? Why talk about the Evolution of Jesus? It’s evident that there was much planning, much care and much love put into Jesus’ life. That Luke specifically points us to these 3 particular points in Jesus’ life can only mean one thing. It was of utmost importance to Theophilus that he understood **who Jesus was** but not only that. Luke wanted Him to also understand **what He came to do**. Jesus was born into this world and showered with divine blessings and at the age of twelve He was seeking God’s will and God’s purpose for His life. The Creator, the Son of the Most High God came and did everything we talked about in order that He might suffer a brutal death on the cross. He came to die and to rise from the dead not for Him, not for the twelve, not for the Jews but for every single soul on earth. He did it for you and me and for our children and our children’s children etc. Why? Because like the disciples on the sea we are burdened by the storms of this life that was brought upon by our own misdoings and evil actions and the cosmic consequences thereof. Like the demon possessed man we have problems that are too big for us to handle on our own and these problems drive us to our breaking points. Like the woman with the hemorrhage we have been dealing with a dreadful disease for all of our lives that no one can heal except Jesus alone. And like the little girl, **sin has destroyed us and killed us**. It has wreaked its havoc and left us for dead, but Jesus has the power to save and to overcome that. He came and He evolved for us. **Sin is the biggest problem we have ever faced and will ever face**. If you have not yet taken care of sin then Jesus’ offer is there for you to take! **Will you accept it?**