

“Left Behind”

The Gospel Lesson for today is read from Luke 2:41-52

Hear the words from the disciple Luke:

Read Luke 2:41-52

“The Word of God for the people of God.”

“Thanks be to God”

Let us pray:

Lord, by Your grace may I be given Your words to proclaim without fear. As we have prepared for the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, prepare our hearts to receive the good news shown to us by him. Intercede my words by Your Holy Spirit and give them life – in the same way You gave life to Your Son in the Incarnation. May Your Word and my words be one in the same. Use them to bring the good news, the joyous truth to Your people that Your Son, Immanuel, has come for us, and will never leave us. In Jesus Christ’s holy name, Amen.

1. Well, it hasn’t been a whole 6 days since Jesus was born and we’ve already lost him.
2. What wonderful parents God has chosen to raise his only begotten Son.
3. Joseph, Mary, and 12 y.o. Jesus have traveled to the annual festival in Jerusalem, the yearly Jewish feast of Passover
 - a. a celebration held in remembrance of what God did to save their people in the Exodus of Egypt
 - b. a sum total of 70 mile pilgrimage from Nazareth to Jerusalem which probably took about 3 days traveling with a caravan
4. but when they left to go back home, Luke says, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem and his parents didn’t know it, and assuming Jesus was with them they traveled without him for an entire day
 - a. IT WAS ONLY AFTER A DAY’S JOURNEY THAT THEY BEGIN TO LOOK!
 - b. I’m reminded of that Home Alone scene where the mother of Kevin McAlister is on their flight to Paris and she feels like she missed something and yells KEVIN!

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- i. Im sure mary did the same thing, going through her checklist – ive got my clothes, my sandals, my coin purse, my husband... I know im missing something.... Jesus! Where is Jesus?! Joseph where is Jesus?!
 - c. Joseph was probably like, “I don’t know? he’s technically not my son, I thought he was with you?”
- 5. Luke says they frantically made the trip back to Jerusalem and after 3 exhausting and worrisome days of searching they find him in the temple, happy and innocent as can be “listening and asking questions” with the teachers.
- 6. Didn’t Jesus know that they had been worried about him?
 - a. V.49- The Lord’s answer, His first recorded words, show that He was fully aware of His identity as the Son of God, and of His divine mission
 - i. **Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business, in my Father’s house?**
 - b. After that, Joseph was probably elbowing Mary like, “See, that’s what I’m talking about!” [I joke, in Matthew 1, Joseph accepts Jesus as His Son]
- 7. At the time, they didn’t understand what Jesus meant by his cryptic remark. It was an unusual thing for a 12 y.o. boy to say!
- 8. What does 12 year old Jesus mean when saying that?
- 9. What is more, why does Luke want us to know this story from Jesus’ boyhood? No other gospel gives an account of such a thing.
- 10. The last statement—that they did not understand Jesus—is Luke's way of saying to us the reader: "There's more here than meets the eye. This is the point, don't miss it" (cf. Luke 18:34). They were searching and searching and finally they turn him up at the temple. Where did they search? In the playground, the local swimming hole, in the shops, at the bakery? Jesus answers: You shouldn't have had to seek at all. For you know, don't you, that there is laid on me an inner necessity to be in my Father's house (or about his business)?

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11. The main point of the whole passage probably lies in the contrast between "your father" and "my father." Mary says, "Your father and I have been searching for you." Jesus answers, "You should have known I would be at the house of my Father." In other words, Jesus has chosen this crucial stage in his life, on the brink of manhood, to tell his parents in an unforgettable way that he now knows who his real Father is and what it will mean for his mission. It will mean, as Simeon said in Luke 2:35, "a sword will pierce through your own soul also, Mary." The time will come when Jesus will be killed at Jerusalem, and after three days rise from the dead, and that will be a great pain to Mary. And is not this three-day devotion by Mary and Joseph to be with Jesus a foreshadowing of that experience? She said, "Your father and I have been seeking you in pain."
12. So it seems to me that the main point of the passage is that Jesus now recognizes his unique sonship to God, and that his mission will require of him a devotion to God's purposes so great that it takes precedence over the closest family ties. He must follow his calling, even if it brings pain and misunderstanding. In this way Luke sets the stage for the adult ministry of the Son of God. And to that we'll turn in chapter 3, about 18 years later where John the Baptize prepares the way for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to begin his teaching ministry and ultimate calling to the cross. But this passage from Luke given to us today shows to us that without a doubt Jesus' heart was ready to take on the mission to suffer and die on the cross for us, for our sins, in order that we may believe and come to know Jesus' father, as our own father in heaven. And that on our final day we will wake up in paradise with him who saved us, all because God so loved us that he gave up his only begotten Son for us.
 - a. Let us pray: