

The Boy Jesus

Luke 2:41-52

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: **Luke 2:41-52**

B. A visit to the city of Jerusalem!

1. Of all the places that interested Him, the Temple enthralled Him most.
2. In that Temple area He would assuredly stand, transfixed by the blood-stained altar, watching with troubled eyes the sacrifices and the ascending smoke.
 - a. Was He thinking about how ultimately the blood he saw that day would not accomplish what His blood one day would.
 - b.
3. Perhaps passages from Isaiah and the Psalms would stir His soul that day.
 - a. **ISAIAH 53:7** – “Brought as a lamb to the slaughter.”
 1. Was He thinking about being that lamb?
 2. Was He thinking about His future slaughter?
 3. Heavy thoughts for a twelve-year-old boy . . . Real thoughts about real future events for the true Lamb of God.
 - b. **PSALM 22:16** – “The pierced my hands and my feet.”
 1. Did this scene cause Him to think ahead to what would eventually happen to Him in Jerusalem?
 2. He knew more than the religious teachers with which He would converse . . . And He accomplished more than any of those religious teachers would.
4. You see, by this time Jesus knew full well who He was and who His Father Was . . . Yes, and He knew what His Father’s business was in the world of sin and how He would be the ultimate solution for the problems He was witnessing firsthand.
5. Why it took Joseph and Mary three days to find Him will ever remain a mystery . . . Surely they should have made a beeline to the Temple!

THEIR TRAGIC MISTAKE. (2:44)

- A. **LUKE 2:44** – “Because they assumed he was with friends among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.”
- B. They made an assumption about Jesus . . . But that assumption was wrong.
 1. At age twelve, Jesus was considered almost an adult, so he probably didn't spend a lot of time with his parents during the feast.

2. Those who attended these feasts usually traveled in caravans for protection from robbers along the Palestine roads.
 - a. It was customary for the women and children to travel at the front of the caravan, with the men bringing up the rear. A twelve-year-old boy conceivably could have been in either group, and both Mary and Joseph assumed Jesus was with the other one.
 - b. Their caravan probably included a large number of people. So it was not until they had gone a day's journey and were ready to strike camp that Mary and Joseph checked for Jesus among all their relatives and friends, only to discover that he was not in the crowd but had stayed behind in Jerusalem.
- C. People today continue the pattern of making assumptions about Jesus . . . Assumptions that lead to their doctrine . . . Assumptions that are wrong.
 1. Jews assume that Jesus was not the Messiah and they continue to look for one.
 2. Moslems assume that Jesus was not the Son of God and therefore do not follow Him.
 3. Some assume that Jesus established His church during the time of John the Baptist rather than on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2.
 4. Some assume that Jesus did not establish His kingdom while he was here, but will do so at a future time when they further assume He will return and reign on the earth from Jerusalem for a thousand years.
 5. Some assume that Jesus will save every religious person regardless of their denominational affiliation in spite of Jesus having said in **MATTHEW 15:8-9** – “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”, and in **MATTHEW 7:21** – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”
 6. Some assume all one has to do to be saved is to believe, have faith, in spite of Jesus having said in **MARK 16:16** – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved . . .”
- D. Why assume when you can have a “Thus says the Lord” and remove all doubt?

THEIR TEARFUL MISSION. (2:45-48)

- A. **LUKE 2:45-48** – “When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. Three days later they finally discovered him. He was in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, discussing deep questions with them. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. His parents didn't know what to think. ‘Son!’ His mother said to him.

‘Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.’”

- B. Their hearts must have been heavy.
 1. God had entrusted the care of His Son on earth into their hands, and they had lost Him.
 2. Not watching closely enough, and assuming to widely enough, brought them on this anxious, tearful mission.
- C. Today many people “Look everywhere” except the “right where” Jesus is to be found.
- D. Listening friends . . . Listen carefully:
 1. You do not have to look for what you haven’t lost.
 2. An omission in your life can lead to a tearful mission of finding what you once had . . . But lost.
 3. Draw close . . . And stay close . . . to Christ!
- E. During the time of the Passover, the greatest rabbis of Judaism would gather to teach and discuss great truths among themselves. That must have been some discussion between these rabbis and Jesus.
- F. Joseph and Mary went looking for a boy . . . What they found was the Son of God.
 1. Are you looking for the Son of God as well?
 2. If you are, you can find Him.
 - a. **LUKE 19:10** – “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - b. **MATTHEW 7:7-8** – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”
 - c. Are you looking for the One Who is looking for you?

THEIR TEMPLE MEETING. (2:46)

- A. Their criticism of Him. **LUKE 2:48** - His parents didn't know what to think. ‘Son!’ His mother said to him. ‘Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.’”
- B. His correction of them. **LUKE 2:49** – “And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?’”
 1. One translation says: “You should have known that I would be in my Father's house.”
 2. This is the first mention of Jesus' awareness that he was God's Son (he called God "my Father") and that he had special work to do (he said I "must" be here).
 3. Godly people have Godly responsibilities and godly places they should be at times.

- C. Do you know who you are really here to serve?
1. Are you going about your Father’s business?
 2. His business is important to merit some of your time to give to it.
 3. How tragic if the Father’s business is none of your business.

CONCLUSION:

- A. After this story in the life of Christ, the Bible does not record any events of the next eighteen years of Jesus’ life. However, He continued to grow:
1. Physically
 2. Mentally
 3. Socially
 4. Spiritually
- NOTE:** The way all of our children should grow
- B. A whole day’s journey without Christ! . . . How could that have been with Joseph and Mary?
1. How often could such a statement be written across the life of a Christian?
 - A. To get up in the morning . . . Eat a hasty breakfast . . . Hurry off to work or school and the daily routine of activities . . . To find the evening hours crowded . . . And to tumble, tired, into bed at night and fall right off to sleep . . . A whole day without thought or word of Jesus?
 2. How could a Christian today spend a day without Jesus?
 3. **Illustration:** A famous concert pianist once said: “If I fail to practice for the full time one day I know it . . . If I neglect my practice for two days, the conductor knows it . . . If I do not practice for three days everybody knows it.”
 4. The same principle is true in the Christian life . . . Let us never go a whole day’s journey without Christ!
- C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**