

The Lost Christ

Luke 2:41-52

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Have you ever lost anything and searched diligently for it? Certainly you have . . . We all have.
1. The very fact that something is lost creates anxiety and a search is made.
 - a. This principle of reality is vividly demonstrated in Luke 15.
 1. In verses 1-6, **one out of 100 sheep** was lost. The shepherd searched until he found it. 1%
 2. In verses 7-10, **one out of 10 coins** was lost. The woman of the house searched until she found it. 10%
 3. In verses 11-32, **one of two sons** is lost to the family, and no rejoicing took place until he is safely back home. 50%
 - b. Lose a **penny** and little care is aroused or effort expended to find it.
 - c. On the other hand, lose a **\$100.00 dollars** and it greatly raises the anxiety level and one's resolve and determination to find it.
 - d. Bro. **Eldon Rogers' passport** in Brussels, Belgium.
 - e. Bro. **Danny Cottrell** telling about his little boy becoming lost. (Linda)
 - f. **Boy who rode off on someone else's motorcycle in South Pittsburg.** The search was intensive. The following day his lifeless body was found. He had wrecked on a curve on a country road.
- B. In our lesson text we will take note of something of great value being lost . . . I speak of **The Lost Christ**. Let's read it together in **LUKE 2:41-52**
- C. Herein we have read about **THE LOST CHRIST**.
1. Just as Mary and Joseph lost Christ on this recorded occasion, I submit to this audience that it remains possible for people to lose Christ today . . . and for the very same three reasons. Win this study, we will examine each of those three reasons.
 2. The Bible reveals Christ in many ways. We see Him as:
 - a. The **PRAYING** Christ — Hebrews 5:7
 - b. The **DEMANDING** Christ — Matthew 16:24
 - c. The **INQUIRING** Christ — Matthew 16:13-17
 - d. The **CONSTRUCTIVE** Christ — Matthew 16:18-19
 - e. The **BEWILDERED** Christ — Luke 6:46
 - f. The **HUMILIATED** Christ — Philippians 2:5-8
 - g. The **EXALTED** Christ — Philippians 2:5-11
 - h. The **PEACEFUL** Christ — John 14:27
 - i. The **ATTRACTIVE** Christ — John 12:31-33
 - j. The **SERVING** Christ — John 14:13
 - k. The **COMFORTING** Christ — John 14:1-4
 - l. The **AGONIZING** Christ — Luke 22:39-46
 - m. The **SUFFERING** Christ — Matthew 27:26-50
 - n. The **VICTORIOUS** Christ — 2 Corinthians 2:14

o. The **COMING** Christ — Acts 1:9-11

D. However, He is **The LOST Christ** in Luke 2:41-42

WHY WAS CHRIST LOST?

A. He was lost because of **NEGLIGENCE**.

1. He was lost to His parents., the very parents one would assume would be the last to lose Him.
 - a. He was not lost to His parents because they were wicked.
 - b. He was not lost to His parents because they could not know where He was.
 - c. He was not lost to His parents because they did not love Him.
 1. Mary and Joseph were hand-picked of God to be very special parents for His “only Begotten Son.”
 2. He was lost to them because of their **NEGLIGENCE**.
2. **Illustration:** David Lipscomb University Psychology professor, Dr. David Martin and his wife had one son . . . born later in life to them. So many years spent in school to earn a doctorate in Psychology. The precious son was then two years-old. The pride and joy of the Martin’s lives. He was out in the yard while David was doing some yard work. Some poisons. Went around the corner for a brief moment. That brief moment of negligence was all that was necessary for the little boy to get into the poisons. He died. Appearance in chapel to thank faculty, staff, and student body for such an outpouring of prayers and expressions of sympathy.
3. Neglect has always been a problem with mankind, and God warns us about it.
 - a. **Psalms 119:4** - You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently.
 - b. **2 Chronicles 29:11** - My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense.
4. Neglect was one of the first problems mentioned among members of the early Church. **Acts 6:1** - Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.
5. Many parents today neglect to warn their children about societal dangers, thus loosing them to sin and Satan. **Ephesians 6:4** - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
6. Church members whom you would think would be the last one to lose Christ, lose Him through their own neglect. The children of God were warned in **Deuteronomy 6:12** — . . . Beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
7. Listening friends, neglect can cause one to lose his soul. **Hebrews 2:3** - “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.”
8. Yes, Christ was lost to His parents through their NEGLECT.

B. He was lost because of **SUPPOSITION**.

1. Supposition often leads people astray.
 - a. Wrong road supposing it to be the right way.
 - b. Loaded gun supposing it to be unloaded . . . tragedy ensues. Sad funeral in West Tennessee right after Christmas. 12 year old boy thought his new gun was empty when he pointed it at his younger brother.
 - c. Stopping for rattlesnake rattlers in Doran’s Cove on way to Russell Cave. I supposed it had been hit by a car. “Dead” snake crawled away over into the high grass along the road.
2. The Lord’s parents supposed “Him to have been in the company.” Supposing it so did not make it so . . . did it? Explain “insula.”
3. Supposition is frequently found in the realm of religion.
 - a. Supposition on the part of others got Paul into trouble in Jerusalem, and trouble he would remain in for the next two to three years. **Acts 21:27-29** - Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)
 - b. Members of the Lord’s Church often rely upon supposition in addressing matters. Partyism, division, and strife often result. **John 17:20-21** - I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
 - d. Many suppose that any “religious” way is all right with God so long as one is honest and sincere.
 1. **John 3:5** - Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
 2. **John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - e. Perhaps because of my work in the Middle East, I am sometimes asked about will become of the Jews and Moslems at the Judgment.
 1. No doubt each supposes they will dwell eternally in the presence of God.
 2. While I am not now, nor will I be their judge, my answer is simple and is contained in one verse of Scripture as spoken by my Lord. **John 8:24** – Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; **for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**”
 3. Koran says: “And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the hereafter he will be one of the loses.”
 - f. Many brethren make are taken captive by false suppositions.
 1. They suppose it is okay to forsake worship services.
 2. They suppose it is okay to willfully pass up the Lord’s Supper.
 3. They suppose God’s makes exceptions to His laws governing marriage,

divorce, and remarriage.

4. They suppose they have plenty of time before settling down to take the Bible seriously.
- g. Yes, Christ was lost to His parents through their **SUPPOSITION**.

C. He was lost because they **LOOKED IN THE WRONG PLACE**.

1. They “sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances.” Luke 2:44
 - a. Why couldn’t they find Him there. The answer is simple... He was not there.
 - b. Mary and Joseph were looking in the wrong place.
 - c. They did not find Him until they went back to where they lost Him...Jerusalem.
2. Many today are looking in the wrong places for Christ by seeking Him in the creeds of men..., or in the religions of their relatives and acquaintances.
 - a. Many are looking in the wrong wisdom.
 - b. Many are looking in the wrong books.
 - c. Many are looking in the wrong religious institutions.
 - d. Many are looking in the wrong Religions and churches so called. **Luke 13:24** – to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
3. Jesus tells us that He **CAN** be found, and he tells us **HOW** and **WHERE** to look.
 - a. **Matthew 7:7** - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
 - b. **John 5:39** — You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.
 - c. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** — Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - d. **Romans 1:15-17** - So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”
 - e. **Hebrews 11:6** — But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
4. Yes, Christ was lost to His parents because they were **LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE**.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The story of the lost Christ does not end with Him still lost . . . But with him having been found.
 1. Have you lost Christ?
 2. Have you become lost to Christ?
- B. If you have lost Christ because of **NEGLECT**, or **SUPPOSITION**, or because you have **LOOKED IN THE WRONG PLACE** . . . Find Him NOW before you

lose your soul eternally.

C. **Matthew 18:11** - For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

D. Listening friends

1. Man is not going to be lost if he does not believe the gospel.
2. Man is not going to be lost if he does not repent of his sins.
3. Man is not going to be lost if he does not confess Christ.
4. Man is not going to be lost if he is not baptized (immersed) in water for the remission of his sins.
5. Man is not going to be lost if he is unfaithful to Christ.
6. Do you know why? **BECAUSE HE IS ALREADY LOST**, that's why, and the gospel of Christ is the only power in this world to make a lost man a saved man. **Romans 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes . . .

E. **I have some good news for you! You can find Christ right here and right now if you really want Him. He has never lost sight of you, and you have never gained sight of Him . . . But you can this very hour of precious time.**

1. The story in Luke 2 did not end with Him still lost, but rather with Him found.
2. I hope this service does not end with you still lost, but rather, with you being found IN CHRIST.
3. Listening friend . . . One way or another . . . You are going to find Christ!
 - a. You will either find Him in this life as your Savior . . .
 - b. You will find in judgment as your Judge.
 - c. You may live without Him as your Savior . . . But you cannot live and die without Him being your Judge. **John 5:22** – “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.” Four verses later we read: “. . . For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, **and has given Him authority to execute judgment also**, because He is the Son of Man.” **John 5:26-27**

D. It seems that many today are wanting:

1. The Christ of the cross . . . But not the cross of the Christ.
2. The Christ of the church . . . But not the church of the Christ.
3. The God of the Bible . . . But not the Bible of the God.
4. Salvation . . . But without obedience.
5. Heaven . . . But without being a part of God's family.
6. To die the death of the faithful . . . But without attempting to live faithfully.
7. The benefits of worship . . . But without having scripturally worship.
8. Salvation by feelings . . . But without adherence to God's standard of truth.
9. All spiritual blessings . . . But without trying to be spiritual.
10. **A** way . . . But not **the** Way.
11. **A** church . . . But not **the** Church.
12. **Their** will . . . But not **His** will.

E. **Jeremiah 6:16** – “Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand in the ways and see, **And ASK for the old paths**, where the **good way** is, **And WALK** in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

1. “**ASK**” for them then “**WALK**” in them.

2. The “**good**” way as opposed to a bad or wrong way.
3. You do not have to be lost . . . The Way to be saved is open to you. **John 14:6** –
“ . . . “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except
through Me.

F. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation