

Luke 2:41-52

12-year old Jesus in the Temple; Where He is supposed to be.

Think of the child of your dreams. You know, the perfect child. The one who never slams doors, who never talks back, always shows respect, never fails doing the chore chores, always in the right place always obedient. So, you say, yes if I were raising Jesus of Nazareth. Perhaps that is the way it was in the household of Mary of Joseph. Raising the Jesus, the Son of God. The one who never sinned. Who was perfect always and in all things? Always where He was supposed to be, doing what He was supposed to be doing, always saying what He was supposed to say.

I can understand Mary and Joseph assuming that Jesus was where He was supposed to be, doing what He was supposed to be doing – In the company of relatives returning to Nazareth after attending the Passover in Jerusalem. That is where Jesus was supposed to be and doing what He was supposed to be doing. If there was a child you could count on, it was their boy Jesus.

Except this time. After a day's journey, He was not there. Any parent who has lost a child for any length of time, the one that goes through their mind is panic. Terror. Nothing matters at this point – finding their lost child. And so, it was with Mary and Joseph. After checking through the caravan, they return to Jerusalem. Probably wondering if they were even worthy to be parents of Jesus. Finding Jesus consumes them for three days. First to the police station, back alleys, retracing their steps, asking everybody if they have seen a 12 year old boy, named Jesus.

As we find out Jesus is not lost. He is where He is supposed to be and doing what He is supposed to be doing. In His Father's house, doing His Father's work. Way, way back in the day the glory of the Lord filled Solomon's temple with a cloud. On this day the Lord is present, not in a cloud – But wrapped in human flesh. God has come to dwell among His people. To serve God's people. To teach God's people. And that is what He is doing on this day. He was asking the teachers of the day questions to learning from them. He was asking questions to help them reflect and mediate on God's Word to lead them to God's wisdom. He was directing them to God's promises so that one day they would see Him as the fulfillment of those promises. Jesus was where He was supposed to be and doing what He was supposed to be doing.

There was nothing wrong happening in Jerusalem. Everything was right. But the panic of Mary and Joseph blind them to this. They did not understand. How is it that the Temple, God's house was the last place they thought to look?

Maybe it is like that for you and me. Fear, panic, and sins leave no room for anything else. Jobs, family troubles, fear of aging and being left alone. These can fill our minds and cause much worry and anxiety. So much that we feel we lost Jesus. We look to outside sources. Doctors, yes they can help. We look to experts for solutions. We look to daytime celeb daytime pros for answers. But Jesus is not found there. Where is He. He is where He is supposed to be and doing what He is supposed to be doing for my life, for my family, for the church, or for the world.

The problem is Jesus of course. It is with us.

For Jesus right where He is supposed to be and doing what He is supposed to be doing. He is the fulfillment of the Scriptures and all of God's promises. But for now, Jesus is a 12-year boy. And much to the relief of Mary and Joseph, they find Him. Like many parents who find their lost child there is relief. And there is maybe chastisement. "Why have you put us through this turmoil?" Jesus is right where should be, In His Father's house. He is doing what He is supposed to be doing.

Jesus did go back to Nazareth with His parents and was obedient and subject to them. And there Jesus increased in wisdom and favor. There would be that day when Jesus would return to Jerusalem for a final time. And He would be submissive to His Father in Heaven's will. And that is where he is supposed to be and doing what He is supposed to do. For Jesus would pray to His Father in Heaven remove this cup of suffering and then submitting, "Not my will but your will be done."

He would be compelled to ascend the cross to be crucified and die for our sins. Not only your sins, but the sins for the world. On the third day Mary His mother be looking for Him, this time in a tomb, but He will not be there. Will be rise from the dead! He be alive.

And Jesus will be present where He has promised He is supposed to be and doing what He is supposed to be doing. Coming to us. And serving us with His life and forgiveness in His Church. Where two or three are gathered in His name, Jesus has promised to be present. He is present in His Word, The Holy Gospel, In Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. When the wisdom of His Holy Word in the declaration of forgiveness raises us up to the new transformed life in His life. And the right-ness of God is given to us who were once lost, renewing and reconciling u back to God.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.