

WITH JESUS AT OUR FATHER'S
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

LUKE 2:40-52
JAN 4, 2015

⁴⁰The child Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

If someone tells you they spent Christmas at their parents'
you don't ask them, "A your parent's what?"
They may not say if they were at their parent's town
or at their home or at their business.
It could have been any or all of these things
But when they say they were at their parents'
you simply supply missing word with your understanding.
in v. 49, in Greek, Jesus simply says: "I must be in my Father's"
This translation fills in the word "house"
Another translation says "about my Father's business"
Jesus was into all of these.
Today as we gather in our Father's house
and install those elected to lead us in Father's business,
we think about how we too, as children of God
are to be involved in the things of our Father.
But we think about how, like a word left out of a sentence,
we may not notice things that are missing among us,
but Jesus, who is rich in understanding,
including understanding us and our needs,
supplies what is missing in our words & work & lives.

MARY AND JOSEPH CARE FOR THE FATHER'S SON
WE ARE TO BE ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS
JESUS SERVES FAITHFULLY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

MARY AND JOSEPH CARE FOR THE FATHER'S SON

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Have you ever wondered how Jesus knew everything he knew,
how he knew what it meant that he was God's son,
how he knew everything he taught, how to do miracles,
how he knew he had to die on cross and would rise again?

Some assume he just naturally knew it

or that he was given some special divine revelation.

I don't think so. I think when he was made human like us
this included doing everything the hard way, just like us.

I think v.40 is telling us just as he grew up physically,

he grew in his wisdom and understanding of who he was
by studying the scriptures, just like every Jewish boy
preparing for his Bar Mitzvah at age 12.

He himself pointed out after his resurrection

that whole truth about him was there in those scriptures.

It is clear here he was very gifted & hardworking student,

the kind that asks questions that drive teachers crazy.

but he also had good and faithful parents

who took seriously the task God had given them.

They did what God said parents should do for children

Verses before, heard last Sun., tell how they kept law.

Here we see this included going every year to Passover
where Jesus learned about sacrifice that saved lives
and God's miraculous deliverance.

They made worship such regular habit Jesus felt at home there.

They didn't do this all by themselves but together with
family and friends in a community of believers
that encouraged & supported each other in the faith.

In this, they set a good example for us.

So they weren't being bad parents when they assumed
on way back from Jerusalem, Jesus was with them
because he would have been in care of whole group.

But fact that they had a unique responsibility shows
in their distress when they discover Jesus isn't with them

Any parent would have felt this way,
but among things that Mary kept pondering in her heart
was how on first trip to Jerusalem with Jesus
Old Simeon warned he would be spoken against
and a sword would pierce her heart also.

Hadn't King Herod tried to kill Jesus when he was a baby?
Hadn't they hidden out in Egypt & even when Herod died
gone to live in back country of Galilee
because Herod's son ruled in Jerusalem.

It was clear the devil wanted this child dead
and maybe she had premonition
Jerusalem is where it would happen.

This was all the more reason they needed
more than two pairs of eyes and ears.

They wisely traveled in a group, being part of a community
that went to worship at the temple together.

This is what we do too when we are part of the church where...

WE ARE TO BE ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS

⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but
then they began to search for him among their relatives and
acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to
Jerusalem, searching for him.

If you tell someone you are part of the Missouri Synod,
they may wonder what a Synod is,
some don't even know how to pronounce it.

I think of this because Greek word "synod" is found in v. 44,
translated, "group". It literally means "together/way"
it is those going together along the same way.

This is what our Synod is and what our congregation is.

We are a group traveling together on way to heaven.

It is good to understand who we are, our identity,
because this is how we know what we are to do.
It was because Jesus understood he was the Son of God
that he knew his place was in God's temple
and he knew his business was God's word
which he was both learning and teaching.

When we understand church is community of God's children
who are to be going in same direction together
we see that we too need to be constantly growing in wisdom
and in favor with God and men.
and this happens through learning & teaching God's word.

This is the main business we are in as a church.
It is a big job that includes having a place to do it,
managing resources, inviting others in, and more.
It takes all of us together to do it,
which is why we are grateful for all the leaders
who will be installed in their offices this morning.

This is our business because it is our Father's business
This is why we, too, need to be in our Father's house.
This is where Jesus is found.

This may go without saying except that as with Jesus' parents
it is possible for us to go on our way in daily life
assuming we are on the right track
and everything is being taken care of by someone
and not notice that something is missing.

It is important to be alert, because the devil has not given up
trying to destroy God's children when no one is looking.
It is a good thing Jesus' parents expected him
to sit down with them for supper.

It is a good thing for families to eat together
and to have daily devotions together

It is a good thing for us every day to look around and ask,
"Where is Jesus?" in this crowd.
Where is Jesus in my crowded life?
among my family and friends?
in all the things we do together as church?

This is important to ask because when we assume
things just go without saying, something may be missing.
we may assume everything is being taken care of
when it is not, except that God takes care of everything
when...

JESUS SERVES FAITHFULLY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

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A child's first word may be Mama or Dada.

Here, in Jesus' first words recorded in the Bible,
he speaks of his father, and his commitment to his work.

Later, in his last words before his death,
he speaks of his father, committing himself to his care.

Jesus' parents were frantic when they realized
that for three days they had not been doing their job
of taking care of Jesus.

But Jesus was not frantic at all from missing them.

He was still in his Father's care
and he was about his Father's business
which is taking care of things for us.

Jesus came to do for us everything we fail to do.

He knows who he is and here he reveals to us who he is.

He is the one who is to be found in God's temple,
that is, he is God himself.

He would repeatedly return to this temple
to teach and to cleanse it and make it holy,

This is the business he finished on the final Passover
when he came to this temple

where the Passover lambs had to be sacrificed,
because he himself is the perfect Passover lamb
who takes away the sins of the world.

Until then he did his Father's business by keeping the whole law
we fail to keep perfectly, including 4th commandment.

He honored his father & mother, submitting to them,

And went on to submit to Pontius Pilate & religious leaders
who still failed to understand his superior wisdom

Then came another frantic 3 days after his crucifixion & burial
when Jesus seemed to be gone

but he revealed himself again alive and well
and reassuring us he had done his Father's business.
This is why, after a few days away, we keep hurrying back
to this temple where we again find Jesus
present with us in Holy Communion.

Now he makes us to be his holy temples by living in us
as, at the same time he fills the heavenly sanctuary
and continues to carry out the Father's business,
by watching over us as we go on our way,
giving us wisdom through faith in his word,
sending us out to do his business of sharing his word,
forgiving us for all our failures,

We too have been given a place in our Father's business.
as MARY AND JOSEPH CARE FOR THE FATHER'S SON
we are given children to care for
and are given the role of taking Jesus into the world.
WE ARE TO BE ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS
as we walk together in the community of believers, church,
where our job is learning and teaching about God,
constantly keeping our eyes on Jesus who
[JESUS] SERVES FAITHFULLY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE
Even when we lose track of things & leave things out
he is taking care of God's business for us
by his perfect life and perfect sacrifice.
In his amazing wisdom, he knows how to provide
everything we need to live in God's house forever.