

"Have You Left Jesus In The Church House?"

Text: **Luke 2:41-52**

Intro:

- Very little information is given of Jesus' childhood in the scriptures.
- Here Luke gives us an incident when Jesus was 12.
- In our passage we have the story of Mary and Joseph going with Jesus to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.
- When they were finished observing the feast of the Passover they immediately started for home.
- They journeyed for one whole day before realizing that Jesus was not among the group that they were traveling with.
- They retraced their steps all the way back to Jerusalem.
- Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple discussing spiritual matters with the doctors of the Law.
- I going to preach a message this morning entitled, "**Have You Left Jesus In The Church House?**"
- What I want you to see is this here are two people who probably love Jesus more than anyone else on the earth at the time.
- Mary his mother and Joseph his stepfather.
- However, despite their love for Jesus they left Him in the church house there back in Jerusalem.
- I want us to notice some things this morning.

- I. V. 43** - "And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned"
- Notice Mary and Joseph were in hurry to get home.
 - They did not linger there in Jerusalem.
 - They had accomplished their religious obligation and did not want to hang around the church house any longer than they had to.
 - Sound like most independent Bible believing Baptist, Amen!
 - o Can't wait to get home -
 - To eat Sunday Dinner.
 - To watch the ball game.
 - To take a dip in the pool.
 - Go to the mall.
 - Ladies to change into those britches - Amen!!
 - o Can't wait to get outside -
 - To have puff on the cigarette - Amen!
 - Mary and Joseph were in such a rush to leave the church house that they left without Jesus.
 - o **V. 43** - "the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it."
 - **V. 43** - "the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem"
 - o Jesus was in no rush.
 - o He stayed behind in Jerusalem
 - o Obvious by the following verses He was interested in what he heard.

- o Because when Mary and Joseph came back and found Him, Jesus was listening to what the men of God had to say and was asking questions of them.
 - o Sometimes we need not be in such a rush to get out the door of the church but mediate and reflect on what you just heard and ask the preacher questions.
 - o Any true man of God is not afraid of questions because that shows that somebody was listening to what he had to say.
 - o Many times Christians fail to hear God because they always in a rush going no where.
- What a sad situation Mary and Joseph left Jesus behind in the church house and they did not even know it.
 - How many times do you leave the church house without Jesus and don't even know it?

II. V. 44 - "But they, supposing him to have been in the company,"

- Mary and Joseph took it for granted that Jesus was with them somewhere amongst the group they were traveling with.
- They just assumed Jesus was around somewhere.
- How many of us Christians do exactly the same thing
 - o We take Jesus for granted and assume that He is with us even when we show no interest in Him.
- **V. 44** - "went a day's journey; and they sought him"

- Can you image here a two people who loved Jesus probably above anyone else at the time and they went a whole day without thinking about Him.
 - Without missing Him.
- How can any one of us get through the day without Jesus.
- Oh! some of us think we can, by the way we neglect our relationship with Him.
- If you love someone that you are always thinking about them and checking in and seeing where they are at and how they are doing.
- My dear friend if you think you can go through a day without Jesus then you are in store for a day trouble and turmoil.
- How can you begin your day without Jesus.
 - We do exactly that when we fail to begin our day with prayer and Bible reading.
- You just cannot suppose anything.
- If you want Jesus to be real in your life that you need to spend sometime with Him.
- How many of us feel the effects of going without water and food for the day.
 - You become irritable and cannot focus in the physical realm.
 - The same thing goes in the spiritual realm because Jesus is the water and bread of life.

- We only start looking for the Lord when some trouble hits during the day.
 - Then we want to treat Him like bell hop to come to our aid.
 - We get tired of carrying the bags and decide that we want Him to carry the bags.
- The Word of God tells us that Jesus is to have the preeminence in all areas of our lives.
 - Jesus should be constantly on our hearts and minds.
 - If he was then our behavior would reflect it - Amen!!!

III. V. 44 - "they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance"

- When Mary and Joseph realize that Jesus is not with them notice where they look first.
 - **"among their kinsfolk"**
- Mary and Joseph were his parents and responsible for his welfare and safety not their family.
- As Christians we are responsible for maintaining and developing our individual relationship with Jesus Christ.
- So should not be looking for Jesus among our family or friends.
- Jesus is not someone that you just take Him somewhere and then just dumped off and leave so you can go off and have your fun.
- Jesus is not suppose to be a latch key child in your life.

IV. V. 45 "And when they found him not"

- Obviously Mary and Joseph were looking for Jesus in all the wrong places because they did not find Him.
 - They did not find Him with family or friends.
 - They did not find Him playing Little League Baseball
 - They did not find Him playing Pop Warner Football
 - They did not find out in some field kicking the soccer ball.
- Jesus was not any ordinary child.
 - He was God and man.
 - We are told in **v. 52** - "**Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.**"

V. V. 45 "they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him"

- It finally dawns on Mary and Joseph to go back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.
- They finally realized that they had left Jesus behind.
- That is what some of you need to do is realize that you have left Jesus behind.
- No, I do not mean that you lost your salvation but you lost the relationship that you once had.
 - In other words, "You have left your first love"
 - You sometimes leave out of church so quickly that you leave him behind.

VI. V. 46 "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him"

- It took Mary and Joseph three days to find Jesus.
 - Instead of realizing that he would surely be in the church house because Jesus loved to be in the house of God.
 - Instead they spend three days looking for Jesus.
- They probably went the Christian Bookstore of Jerusalem where they sell those perverted Bibles - No Jesus.
- They probably went to the Christian Rock Concert - No Jesus.
- They probably rode the Sunday School Buses of Jerusalem.
 - They found a lot of fun and games but - No Jesus.
- As they entered Jerusalem they saw a great big banner which read,
"Come and Join Us this Sunday for the Walk for Jesus"
 - They said "Surely we will find Him there"
 - So, they joined in but - No Jesus.
- After Mary and Joseph exhaust looking for all the possible places Jesus could be, they said, **"Let's try the church house"**

VII. V. 46 "they found him in the temple"

- Notice what Mary and Joseph found Jesus doing -
 - He wasn't there chewing gum and sucking on candy.
 - He wasn't there passing notes back and forth.
 - He wasn't there distracting the other children and their parents.
 - He wasn't constantly getting up and down to go to bathroom.

- o He wasn't in Junior Church.
- No, we are told they found Him, "**in temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking questions.**"
- o He was there in the church house learning as much as He could about the things of God.

VIII. V. 48 "And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing."

- We see here that Mary is being a typical mother.
- She scolds her son for staying behind and worrying them.
- I want you to notice Jesus' response in **v. 49**.
- "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
- **Jesus basically responds and says "Where else did you expect to find me?"**

Conclusion:

- What we want to see is we can get so rushed and frazzled that we can leave out the church house without Jesus.
- Whenever you come to the church house you should never be in a rush to leave.
- Part of your worship is just to sit and reflect on what the man of God just said.

- Being in the church house should strengthen our relationship with Jesus and cause us to appreciate Him that much more.
 - Not want to leave Him behind.
 - If it does than you are in the wrong church.
- We are often the last ones to arrive at church and the first ones to leave out.
- If you want fast food religion try one of the other ones.
 - Worshipping God is not suppose to be convenient.
 - You are not here to give God the bum's rush then hit the door.
- I hope no one here would ever go a day's journey like Mary and Joseph only then realized that you left Jesus behind.
- Remember, if you do where to find him in the church house about His Father's business.
- My friend that is what you should be doing while waiting for the Lord to return.
 - Be about your Father's business.
 - Occupy till he comes!