

St. Luke 2:41-52

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to read something to you:

Light travels at a constant speed of 186,000 miles per second. A traveler, moving at the speed of light, would circumnavigate the equator approximately 7.5 times in one second. By comparison, a jet aircraft, moving at a ground speed of 500 miles per hour, would cross the continental U. S. once in 4 hours.

Our Milky Way galaxy is approximately 100,000 light years across. If we could travel the speed of light it would take us 100,000 years to cross the galaxy. Our galaxy is but one of an untold number of galaxies in the universe.

God created the universe. God fills the universe, but, at the same time, is not confined by it. How *big* is God? He's infinite. And get this: the One Who created all things, fills all things, is confined by nothing - the Almighty God became one of us. Human. God and Man. Was willing to confine Himself to our stature and walk with us.

He presents Himself to humanity this morning. We're allowed to witness . . .

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GOD AS A BOY**

### **I. Showing His Love for Us.**

"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom." (vss. 41,42) Twelve years old. The One Who has no beginning and no end takes on flesh and submits to parental authority. He comes to identify with us - not to discover what it's like to be a human and live with humans - but that you and I would understand how much He loves us.

Again: "...his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover." It was, of course, impossible for all the Jewish people to make such a journey with any consistency. However, Joseph and Mary were consistent. And Jesus was with them. At that moment, their Son. But, soon they were to understand that He was and is The Son of God.

For us, it begins with the reality that the Passover Feast not only recalled the deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt under the leadership of Moses, but it pointed to the coming of the Messiah - the Christ - Jesus - Who would become the ultimate Passover Lamb whose precious blood would cover our sin and deliver us from our bondage to sin, death and hell!

"And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom." (vs. 42) God - 12 years after His birth into His creation attends the Passover which He had instituted centuries before. As we say. we can't really wrap our heads around all this. It's just as Paul writes:

...though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
(Phil. 2:6-8)

How often do we stop to think about that? How much God really loves you and me? This day in the life of God as a boy - 12 years old - finds Him thinking of you and me and everything necessary to remove from us the condemnation of sin and assure us of eternal life.

## II. Teaching Us About Who's in Charge.

And with that He teaches us about who's in charge:

And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 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, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And 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 anxiously searching for you."

This, of course, is where all the human emotion and sentiment start bubbling. Right? "How could Jesus do this to His parents?" "Why didn't He inform them?" The answer to such questions is rather simple: Jesus is God. Well, listen to this from our text:

And he said to them (His parents), "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. (vss. 49,50)

And somebody might say, "Well, that's a disrespectful way of addressing His parents." And I would say that His earthly parents, at that moment, became a model of human forgetfulness and the inability to grasp the things of God! After all, recall the account of Luke 1:31-33:

And the angel said to her, "do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Lk. 1:30-33)

Don't you find that shocking? The woman who was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus; the earthly father, Joseph, who was confronted by an angel concerning the birth; the angel's words to Mary - "he...will be called Son of the Most High...the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David...will reign over the house of Jacob forever...of his kingdom there will be no end" - all this was lost in the human emotion of the moment.

Jesus words were most appropriate: "did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Their response was shocking: "And they did not understand...".

## III. Teaching About His Love for Us.

Look! We have the Word. We have it in abundance - for the moment. Most don't study it. They might read it (you know, a 3 minute daily devotion), but they don't study it. Few truly listen to it. And most dance around the Word with miss-understandings. "Well, I know the Bible says this or that, but I think...I feel...!" People dance around the word of God with doubts and miss-understandings because they don't know it, or study it, or listen to it, or believe it.

Let's go back to verses 46 and 47:

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

Do you see it? He was “asking them questions.” Evidently, He was correcting and teaching and clarifying their answers. “...were amazed at his understanding and his answers.”

And get this: Our text is another testimony to the inspiration of Scripture. “After three days (three days of His absence) they found him in the temple.” Do you remember this incident: Jesus said, “‘Destroy this temple, and in three days (three days!) I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.” (Jn. 2:19-21) Jesus - God Who is, at this moment, a young boy - Jesus is sitting with sinful humans in the Temple in which the Old Testament worship foreshadowed the sacrifice of His body - His Temple - for the sins of the world.

If we back up to the Old Testament Book of Jonah we’re told: “And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” (Three) (Jonah 1:17) And if we then move forward to St. Matthew’s Gospel, we have these words of Jesus: “‘For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’” (Matt. 12:40) Again, astounding testimony to the inspiration of Holy Scriptures. For us.

What was God doing in the Temple when He was a young boy? Teaching us about God’s centuries old plan to save us from sin, death and hell. Assuring us that we can meet with Him every day - in the Word.

Amen.

Pastor Bill Abbott

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- I. *Showing His Love for Us.*
- II. *Teaching Us About Who's in Charge.*
- III. *Teaching About His Love for Us.*

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