

## Young Jesus

Rev. Taek Kim

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup>Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup>After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup>Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup>"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup>Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

There are certain points when we feel we are really confident and not only in control but also the only person we're responsible to when it came to certain things in life.

Maybe it was when you were a child and you felt like you could go to the store and buy something when you had always gone with an adult.

It reminds me of a time we were looking for our much younger daughter at the time to find an older friend by just a few years, took her for a long walk around the neighborhood, seeing her from a far off distance to not only be relieved but incredibly upset she thought it was okay to just wander off where she never traveled before by herself, in fact she had never been away from us like that before. We thought she was playing with her friend in the back yard and stepped away and then she was gone when we went back to watch her.

Now, when I was growing up, both my parents worked much of the time, so we just went out on walks, bike rides, for swims, fishing, and anything we wanted to all day and all summer. We just had to have all our chores done and be home by dinner.

But back to finding our daughter having just taken off like it was an everyday thing because she was with a friend, she of course trusted but didn't understand was too young to be taking her around town.

We didn't want to scare her, but we also wanted to communicate that wasn't acceptable since she was too young to be walking all around like that. And of course, she scared us, her parents, almost to death.

I don't know if you have had the experience of being told by a parent that you scared them half to death by doing something like that, or if you've had an experience taking care of a little one and either s/he taking off or getting lost, but if you haven't, you can imagine what that feeling is like.

Could you imagine Mary and Joseph feeling that deep and deathly fear of having lost the very Son of God they were entrusted with? They no doubt loved him as their own child, but they also knew there was added responsibility since he was not any ordinary child.

Having had my few but never-forgetful moments of turning around and wondering how a little child could be so quick to somehow disappear for a few moments, I could only imagine what I'd experience if I had to look for my child for more than an ½ hour let alone what Mary and Joseph experienced with searching for 12-year-old Jesus for three days. Of course, as they were traveling in a group and they helped take care of as well as allowed children stay with other relatives in the traveling group, they assumed Jesus was with someone. Especially since they did this every year. So it wasn't Jesus' first time going on this journey. He just decided to stay when they said it was time to go.

They were surely upset when they found him and he acted like it was time for him to go it alone, as he wanted and seemed natural. He actually asked why there were looking for him when to him it was obvious where they should have looked for him.

Though he answered with communicating that they should have known where he was, which probably not only upset them more, but confused them more too. No doubt Mary made sure he never did that again. Three days of traveling and looking included so much stress, grief, turmoil and of course time and resources.

God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus because of her unbelievable amount of patience and outlook that made her treasure what would have pushed a parent, including me, to breaking points.

That's not to say that later Mary's heart was pierced when Jesus was not only spoken about in disrespectful and even threatening ways, but to then see him persecuted, mocked, beaten, and then crucified.

Though I get ahead of myself a bit here, young Jesus felt that he was at a point of going it alone and being independent. As being the very Son of God would no doubt give him the understanding of being independent in a way no other child or being ever could.

However, just as Jesus became human, and though God, he allowed himself to live as one of his creations. He chose to experience life as we experience it. And he learned that day that at his age, though he felt like it was fine to do as he pleased, that he actually had earthly parents he was to obey.

We know of Jesus, as an adult, saying how his food was doing his Heavenly Father's will. He would say that all he did was to fulfill the will of his Father in heaven.

Though we don't know much about Jesus' life as a child, we are given a little glimpse into his young life and how he did as he was told by his earthly parents.

We learn that when Jesus came to earth, he experienced what he could not have without having become human. This is how much God loved us!

The second person of the Trinity, God the Son, became human so that he would not only become like one of us to relate to us, but so he could become the only perfect sacrifice to pay the price for our sin.

And in becoming human, we find that he had to live within certain boundaries until he became old enough and it was time for him to begin his public ministry and the steps to the cross and resurrection.

Again, this is how much he loved us! Most all of us know the verse, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

He submitted as he needed to in order to save us. He allowed his own creation, the very people he came to save, to kill him so that he could rise again and offer eternal salvation.

We don't know when Jesus understood or fully understood his mission, and whether he knew it from when he was a child or if it was a time when God the Father saw fit, but we do know that he carried that incredible burden that was also a joy. The burden of knowing he'd take on the sins of the world, and the joy of saving his lost sheep.

Today, there's no big point in asking you to do something. Today I am asking you to remember that Jesus lived as one of us, experienced life as one of us, had to be accountable to parents like us, and also did what none of us could ever do.

Thanks be to God the Son for choosing to be born like one of us, growing up like one of us, and choosing to be like one of us so that though fully human he could save us because he was also fully God.

Take time to thank Jesus Christ for what he did in life, in death, and in rising again so that we too will have eternal life. Amen.