

Losing and Finding Jesus [Luke 2: 40-52]

Our text presents the first recorded words of Jesus

- The first words of Jesus are misunderstood – thematic for the rest of his life
- These are words of fate – Jesus is speaking of his future passion and resurrection in the Holy City

Luke gives us a glimpse into the life of a 12-year-old and his parents

- First – the family is a marriage unit – husband and wife and children go everywhere together
- 1 Peter 2:21 tells us that Jesus is our example: even at the age of 12
- At age 12 we are expected to act with discernment – meaning keep good company

The setting for our text is the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover

The people travel in companies and caravans with neighbors, friends, and relatives

- Mary and Joseph only know sorrow and distress absent the presence of Jesus
- When Mary and Joseph lose Jesus, they experience a complicated grief known as ambiguous loss

A lost child story

And it came to pass after three days, they found Him!

- Mary refers to Joseph as the father of Jesus - *Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress*
- Whereas Jesus claims God as his Father - *Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?*

Sometimes you and I lose Jesus.

- If we are not careful of distractions - we can lose Jesus even during Christmas
- And if we lose Jesus - we lose fellowship with his divine presence
 - The loss of Jesus is not without consequences for Mary and Joseph
 - Even the saints lose fellowship with God - Jonah, Noah, David, Samson, Peter
 - We must heed the apostle Paul: *Let him that thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall*' (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Did you notice that Mary and Joseph lost Jesus *one step at a time – their steps?*

- Where did they find Him again? Right where they left Him.
- They treasure his words in their hearts since there is no doubt in childhood or adult ministry – he is full of wisdom and favor with God.