

What does it mean to find Jesus? In the midst of all the chaos in the world, God the Holy Spirit brings us to a story of a family who lost their child. That's quite disturbing.

Jesus there in the temple. Here we have the only account of Jesus as a boy. This one example, from His birth until He is baptized, this is all we have. It is also the last time we hear of Joseph, who must have died before Jesus begins His ministry. And also here, we have the first time you hear the scared voice of Jesus, the words He speaks, written for you. And consider the drama of being lost. Perhaps you have been there, panic of being lost or the terror of losing your child for a moment. Both parents and child. But only dramatic here for Mary and Joseph. Jesus is there a year before he is barmitzvah, that age when Jewish children must start paying attention in church, we do it earlier. Listen up kids. Mary and Joseph assume he is with the other boys in the caravan, after all he is always the perfect child so when have they ever really worried much.

Jesus gently corrects Mary when she says **your father and I have been looking for you** -Joseph's not His true Father. While Mary and Joseph found Jesus, got him, they had really not found Him because they did not understand Him. Like many today who speak of finding Jesus, but it seems something else. Mary and Joseph found Jesus the boy, people find Jesus the superhero, Jesus the miracle worker, Jesus the inspirational figure, a best friend, the role model, a Jesus to make you feel good about yourself and support you in all you do.

But the only Jesus to be found is one who comes to kill you and make you alive in His works, righteousness, who has you repent. So how do you find the real, true Jesus. Jesus tells you here.

In Jesus response to His mother, our translations all fall short. I don't know why. The ESV doesn't get it. **Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?** The KJV, **wouldst ye not know that I must be about my Father's business?** First, Jesus doesn't speak in the first person "I must be" but rather says. **It is necessary**. Literally: **"Did you know that it is necessary for me...** It is necessary to hear **it is necessary** because it indicates prophecy. This is how the Scriptures speak, what our Lord uses to announce the necessity of His passion, crucifixion. It's not that translation is wrong, it just misses the nuance, fails to connect this saying points to the cross – connections that we need to understand. Why Mary and Joseph didn't quite understand Him then.

It's worthy to note, the ESV translates **My Father's house**. KJ uses Father's business. Luke doesn't use either word. Business, House aren't bad, but not good to see the depth of what exactly Jesus is saying. Luke uses the word **things; it is necessary for me to be among His Father's things**. What things? The lampstand, the altar of incense, the altar for burnt offerings, and the like. He is there among the things of sacrifices, things that renders God's people clean through blood; reconciles them to the Father that they might bring their prayers and petitions to Him. The things of God is where He dwells in His presence and glory to bring His Word -read, taught, proclaimed, things of forgiveness, blessing His people.

That is where the true Jesus is found, where forgiveness of sins are given. God doesn't need the Temple. We do. And Jesus isn't simple there near, around that stuff...He's one of the Temple things, of His Father's things, for cleansing, forgiving the people. In fact, He is the thing. The fulfillment of all things in the Temple.

Look at those 2 great clues St. Luke shows you what this story points to: It's significant this is the annual Passover feast. That's enough to grab our attention. Passover, isn't just a remembrance, it's God bring them into His act of salvation -foremost points to the Christ -as John declares **the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**. He's the Passover Lamb, sacrificed on a cross whose blood marks the doorpost of your soul with forgiveness, that death passes over you. And as then, the Lamb also meal for His people so that they might have deliverance, eternal life. Passover, commanded to be celebrated forever, so you do, the Passover fulfilled in the Lord's Supper.

Note, they find Him on the third day. That isn't accidental. Luke's isn't merely foreshadowing the Passion and Resurrection, though He's doing that, He is also telling us where to find Jesus. We live in the third day, post-Resurrection. Where is Jesus? He is among His Father's things. But the Temple is gone. No, it isn't. They tore it down; He built again the third day. Jesus, the Temple in flesh, where God abides with His people, the place of His Father's things still. His Word, Sacraments, liturgy fills you with Him.

It is necessary that I be among My Father's Things. Amidst a 2022 that will be chaotic. It is necessary for you to be here in this New Year and always, what joy is yours, rejoice in His works of grace poured out here in His Father's things, to be where our Lord has promised to be; dwells with His people, His name, His glory fills this place, God's House. He said so. You find the true Jesus here; or rather, better, He found you here, among His Father's things.