

WITH JESUS AT OUR FATHER'S
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

LUKE 2:40-52
JAN 2, 2022

⁴⁰ The child Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ 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, ⁴⁵ and-when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷

And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ 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 searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

If I tell you that I am going to spend next week at my mothers,
you probably won't respond, "your mother's what?"

You simply assume the missing word: my mother's house
or it could be her town or business or all of these things.

It is the same way in our text. In v. 49, in original Greek,

Jesus simply says: "I must be in my Father's"

This translation adds "house." Another says, "Father's business."

Jesus was into all of these.

Today as we gather in our Father's house

and talk about our Father's business, we think about how we too,
as children of God are involved in the things of our Father.

but we think about how, like a word left out of a sentence,
we may not notice things that are missing among us,

Yet, Jesus, who is rich in understanding,

including understanding us and our needs,

supplies what is missing in our words & work & lives.

MARY AND JOSEPH CARE FOR THE FATHER'S SON
WE ARE TO BE ABOUT THE FATHERS BUSINESS
JESUS SERVES FAITHFULLY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

MARY AND JOSEPH CARE FOR THE FATHER'S SON

⁴⁰ The child Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁸ 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 searching for you in great distress,"

Have you ever wondered how Jesus knew everything he knew,
how he knew what it meant that he was God's son,
everything he taught, how to do miracles,
how he had to die on cross and would rise again?

Some assume he was given some special divine revelation.

I don't think so. I think when he was made human like us
this included doing everything the hard way, just like us.

I think v. 40 is telling us just as he grew up physically,
he grew in his wisdom and understanding of who he was
by studying the scriptures, just like every Jewish boy
preparing for his Bar Mitzvah at age -12.

He himself pointed out after his resurrection

that whole truth about him was there in those scriptures.

It is clear here he was very gifted & hardworking student,
the kind that asks questions that drive teachers crazy.

but he also had good and faithful parents

who took seriously the task God had given them.

They did what God said parents should do for children

The verses before this text, heard last Sun., tell how they kept law.

in his circumcision, and presentation

and now going every year to Passover

where Jesus learned about a sacrifice that saved lives

and God's miraculous deliverance.

They made worship such regular habit that Jesus felt at home there.
They didn't do this all by themselves but together with family
and friends in a community of believers
that encouraged & supported each other in the faith.
In this, they set a good example for us.
So they weren't being bad parents when they assumed
on way home, that Jesus was with them, in the care of
the whole group of neighbors, aunts, uncles and cousins.
But the fact that they had a unique responsibility
shows in their distress when they discover Jesus isn't with them.
Any parent would have felt this way,
but among things that Mary kept pondering in her heart
was how on Jesus' first trip to Jerusalem,
Old Simeon warned he would be spoken against
and a sword would pierce her heart also.
Hadn't King Herod tried to kill Jesus when he was a baby?
Later, hadn't they gone to live in the back country of Galilee
because Herod's son ruled in Jerusalem.
It was clear the devil wanted this child dead, and maybe
she had a premonition Jerusalem is where it would happen.
This was all the more reason they needed extra eyes and ears.
They wisely traveled in a group, being part of a community
that went to worship at the temple together.
This is what we do too when we are part of the church where...

WE ARE TO BE ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS

⁴⁴ 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.

The original Greek word for "group" in this verse is "synodia"
which literally means "together in the way."

That is also what it means to be part of the Missouri Synod
and part of a congregation: to be together going the same way.
traveling together through this world to heaven.

It is good to understand who we are, our identity,
because this is how we know what we are to do.
It was because Jesus understood he was the Son of God that he knew
his place was in God's temple, the place of sacrifice,
and he knew his business was God's word
which he was both learning and teaching.
When we understand our church is the community of God's children
who are to be going in same direction together
we see that we too need to be constantly growing in wisdom
and in favor with God and men.
and this happens through learning & teaching God's word.
This is our main business as a church, our Father's business.
It is a big job that includes resources, institutions, etc.
It takes all of us together to do it.
When Jesus said make disciples of all nations, he was talking to you
but the way you do it is by being part of a larger church family.
When my wife and I help to train others who will be pastors,
evangelists and deaconesses in 11 countries in eastern Africa,
we are doing it together as part of the same church family
as you who reach out with the gospel in this community,
and the same church as our brothers and sisters
who do it in many other communities.
This is our business because it is our Father's business
This is why we, too, need to be in our Father's house.
This is where Jesus is found.
This may go without saying except that as with Jesus' parents
it is possible for us to go on our way in daily life
assuming we are on the right track
and everything is being taken care of by someone
and not notice that something is missing.
such as how we ourselves need to be doing these things as well,
sharing our faith with others, working in Christian education,
helping those in need, etc.
It is important to be alert, because the devil has not given up trying

to destroy God's children when no one is looking.
It is good that Jesus' parents expected him to eat supper with them,
It is good for families to eat together and have family devotions.
It is good for us every day to look around and ask, "Where is Jesus?"
in this crowd. Where is Jesus in my crowded life?
...among my family and friends? ...in all we do as a church?
We need to ask this because if we assume it just goes without saying
and someone is taking care of it, something may be missing,
except that God takes care of everything when...

JESUS SERVES FAITHFULLY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

A child's first word may be Mama or Dada. In Jesus' first words
in the Bible, he speaks of his father & commitment to his work.
Later, in his last words before his death,
he speaks of his father, committing himself to his care.
Jesus' parents were frantic when they realized that for three days
they had not been doing their job of taking care of Jesus.
But Jesus was not frantic at all from missing them.
They didn't worry when they thought he was with other relatives
Why should they be worried when he was at his father's?
He was in his Father's care and about his Father's business
which is taking care of things for us.
Jesus came to do for us everything we fail to do.
He knows who he is, and here he reveals to us who he is.
He is the one who is found in God's temple, that is, God himself.
He would repeatedly return to this temple
to teach and to cleanse it and make it holy,

This is the business he finished on the final Passover when he came
to this temple where Passover lambs had to be sacrificed,
as the perfect lamb who takes away the sins of the world.
Until then he did his Father's business by keeping the whole law
we fail to keep perfectly, including 4th commandment.
He honored his father & mother, submitting to them,
And went on to submit to Pontius Pilate & religious leaders
who still failed to understand his superior wisdom.
Then came another frantic 3 days after his crucifixion & burial
when Jesus seemed to be gone
but he revealed himself again alive and well
and reassuring us he had done his Father's business.
This is why, after a few days away, we keep hurrying back
to this temple where we find Jesus here in the Lord's Supper
Now he makes us to be his holy temples by living in us as he also
carries out the Father's business in the heavenly sanctuary
by watching over us as we go on our way,
giving us wisdom through faith in his word,
sending us out to do his business of sharing his word,
and forgiving us for all our failures,
We too have been given a place in our Father's business.
as MARY AND JOSEPH CARE FOR THE FATHER'S SON
we are given children to care for
and are given the role of taking Jesus into the world.
WE ARE TO BE ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS
as we walk together in the community of believers, church,
where our job is learning and teaching about God,
while constantly keeping our eyes on Jesus who
[JESUS] SERVES FAITHFULLY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE
Even when we lose track of things & leave things out,
he is taking care of God's business for us by his perfect life
and perfect sacrifice.
In his amazing wisdom, he knows how to provide
everything we need to live in God's house forever.