

Sermon Title: I Had to Be about My Father's Business

Sermon Text: Luke 2:41-52

Calendar Date: January 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Liturgical Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

"I had to be in my Father's house." What was Jesus saying and why? It says in the text that Joseph, His father was right there with Him. Why was Jesus saying these things? Shouldn't He in His Father's house back in Nazareth? Jesus had grown to be a 12 year old boy, but yet he said he had to be in Father's House. What could this mean? Think about this, Mary, was told by the Angel Gabriel, twelve year maybe more like 13 years prior this from the Angel Gabriel;

***"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32He 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, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."***

***34And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"***

***35And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God." 38And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.***

It looks as if in the text of Scripture which is the assigned Gospel reading for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas, Mary and Joseph have forgotten this news that was preached to them by the angels. Hmm. It's like today, Christmas was a week and a half ago, we can move on with life now. How easy it is to move on and not always remember things that have happened. This almost seems like what happened with Mary and Joseph. They kind of have moved on with their lives. They still celebrated the great celebration of the Passover, which is when we celebrate Holy Week and Easter now, but maybe they lost the significance of who Jesus was and what He was sent to earth to accomplish.

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, they probably took their child Jesus for granted. They knew He was their child and took it for granted that He was always with them and there was nothing

special about Him from a human perspective, remember what Isaiah the prophet wrote about Jesus in his book, Isaiah 53:2,

***2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.***

Doesn't this sound like us? We have Jesus right about us, but we don't look to Him or go to Him, because we take Jesus for granted. We take our faith for granted. We take the Bible for granted. We have become too easy in our faith, because everything is close and its so easy. Ask a person who has been persecuted for their faith, and lost their church and pastor how much they took for granted their faith. Ask those whose bodies are frail and weak and cannot come to church anymore how much they take their faith for granted. Joseph and Mary took Jesus for granted and didn't remember the things He was to accomplish.

What was Jesus sent to earth to accomplish? Jesus was sent to earth to accomplish salvation for you. He was sent to forgive your sins. He was sent to die for your sins on the cross and rise again for eternal life on Easter Sunday. He was sent to set things right with God the Father on behalf of your sinfulness. He was sent to give you wisdom regarding salvation. He was sent to give you eternal salvation and eternal life with Him in heaven forever. He was sent to this earth to give life and give that life abundantly. He was sent to earth to lay down his life for you His sheep. He was sent to earth to throw down Satan under His feet. He was sent to earth to defeat Satan at the cross and the empty tomb. He was sent to earth, to be our advocate with the Father as Jesus prays so boldly for us and all believers in what is known as His High Priestly Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, before His crucifixion. He was sent to earth to bring peace with God first and foremost, but then to bring to others who have forgiveness in His name. Jesus came to give us strength in this world of sin, by His giving of His body to eat and His blood to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and the strengthening of our faith. He was

sent to earth to institute that all people should be baptized regardless of age, to receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. He was sent to earth to show love and mercy and kindness to others by His acts of compassion and healing of the sick and those who were once dead. He was sent to earth to teach and catechize, and preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In all of these things Jesus was sent to do, in other words, "He was sent to do His Father's Business."

Did Mary and Joseph ever fully understand Jesus and His work He accomplished? What do the Scriptures speak on this area? It says in the text of today's Gospel Lesson,

***48And 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." 49And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51And 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.***

***52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.***

It says in the text that Mary treasured up all these things in her heart. She meditated on them. She pondered what could these words mean? She looked at Jesus as someone special again. She maybe thought about the angels' words for her again. She maybe thought about the angels' words to Joseph before Jesus was born. She was given the Word of God in the flesh in her Son, Jesus, the one to save His people from their sins. She thought hard and deep about who this child was who was speaking such gracious words to the Experts of the Law of God.

Fast forward to Jesus resurrection, Luke 24 the chapter of Jesus' resurrection and His appearing to the disciples. First He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, while He was walking with them to Emmaus from Jerusalem He explained to them;

***"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.***

Later on those same two disciples when Jesus was recognized by them said to one another,

***“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”***

After these two disciples knew it was Jesus who had appeared to them then went and found the other eleven disciples. What happened next helps us see probably the fruition of Mary pondering all of these thoughts in her heart.

***33And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.***

***36As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” 37But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate before them.***

***44Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”***

Whether or not Mary, the mother of Jesus was there we cannot be certain as the text says, the eleven were together. But what we can say is that Jesus catechized His disciples so they understood the scriptures and what it was exactly that Jesus had come to do. Mary could finally put all the pieces together that she had been pondering in her heart ever since the Angel Gabriel came to visit her. Finally we can see understand the saying Jesus said in the text for today. Jesus wants you to come to Him so you can be catechized by Jesus. He wants to open your heart and mind to the scriptures. He wants you to understand that He came to live, to suffer, to die, and to rise again for you. Now we can understand with Mary, Jesus explanation, “I have to be in my father’s house.”

