CLOSER TO GOD

**42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. Luke 2:42 (KJV)

What was so special about Jerusalem? David did not feel his kingdom was complete until Jerusalem was taken. He did not feel his life was complete until the Ark of the Covenant was housed in Jerusalem. I believe David had a true desire to be close to God. His later days were spent gathering materials for the temple that Solomon would build in Jerusalem. The temple would be the house of God. It would also be one of the most spectacular places in the world of which even the queen of Sheba would say that the half had not been told.

 Oh that we would desire such closeness to God? We need that part of our very soul that is always looking and striving to climb upward. No matter where one was, if he or she went to Jerusalem they were going up. In the verse of our text, Jesus family were residents of Nazareth. This city was located due north of Jerusalem. If this were in Alabama and we decided to go to Montgomery we would say we were going down to Montgomery because our capital city is south of where we reside. Not so with Jerusalem. If you were south of Jerusalem and decided to travel to the City of David, you were going up. Let us say you lived on the north side and were going to Jerusalem, you were going up.

 For the average Hebrew, the opportunity to go to Jerusalem was special. In Luke 2:42, the custom of Jesus family was to go to Jerusalem for the feast. Going to the City of God was special and called for celebration. Jerusalem was home to the temple, the house of God, thus allowing the visitor to feel as if he or she had been in the very presence of God. The families felt a need to go to Jerusalem.

 Oh God create in our hearts such a need and desire to grow close to you. From where we stand today, may we start moving up toward you? Allow us into your sanctuary where we may experience sweet communion with you. Would you speak to us from the mercy seat between the cherubim in the Holy of Holies? Lift us up for a while from this low land of sin and sorrow and caress our souls with the salve of your divine grace. May the oil of your spirit medicate our minds that we see through eyes of faith that whatever takes place around us, you are still in control. Yes Lord, there is no doubt we need a trip to Jerusalem, the Zion of the Old Testament, the City of David, the city of solemnities, the city of the Great King, the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth, the City of God. We can’t get there on our own but by your tender mercies would you take us there?

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram