Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?

Luke 2:41-50

The title of this week’s devotion is Jesus’ answer to His Mother when she lost him during a trip to the temple in Jerusalem. I think many may miss the significance of this statement by Jesus. Allow me to share a few of my observations about this passage.

In reading the scripture, we get the sense that Joseph and Mary are bringing up Jesus in a proper manner. I conclude this because the scripture states that Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem every year to the feast of the Passover. Knowing who Jesus was would have made it very easy to just “leave it all to God” to provide the needs of this special child. Instead, they did those things with Jesus as if He was just like any other child.

We can also see that Joseph and Mary had a great deal of trust in Jesus to be responsible and respectful for his own actions towards others and towards them. We see in this passage that when their group gathered up and headed back home, they just assumed Jesus had gathered himself up and joined the group as well. We see that they didn’t miss him until one full day had passed. It would have been very easy to be over-protective of Jesus because of who he was, but it appears he was treated just like any other 12-year-old who had proven to be trustworthy.

When Joseph and Mary discovered Jesus was not with them, they immediately went back to Jerusalem to locate him. The scripture states that three days had passed when they finally found him. I can imagine that Joseph and Mary were not happy with Jesus, and maybe ashamed of themselves for losing track of Jesus in the first place.

They found him in the temple having conversations with the doctors; in our understanding he was talking with the smartest religious people of the time. The doctors were amazed along with others who were listening to them, and his parents too, were amazed.

Being found by his parents, and being scolded, we hear Jesus’ first words spoken in the gospel of Luke; “How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” Probably not the answer you would expect from a 12-year-old, and definitely not the answer Joseph and Mary were expecting, however they knew that the day would come when something like this would happen, just not today.

You see, I think being about the Father’s business is unique and personal to each person. I believe everyone receives a calling when they accept Jesus as their savior and receive the Holy Spirit. Paul writes that each believer has special talents or gifts granted by the Lord. Some get the call at an early age, some a bit later, but all get the call.

How about you? Have you answered the call to do the Father’s business? Are you boldly fulfilling the spiritual task that God have given you to do your part His kingdom? Jesus knew very passionately that he had no choice but to be about His Father’s business, as we all should.

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