

Young Jesus upsets his Mum and Dad

This unusual story is found in Luke 2:41-52

Jesus, about twelve years old, upset his parents because he failed to understand that his 'family group' were going home with a group of other people after Passover...and his parents could not understand why he stayed.

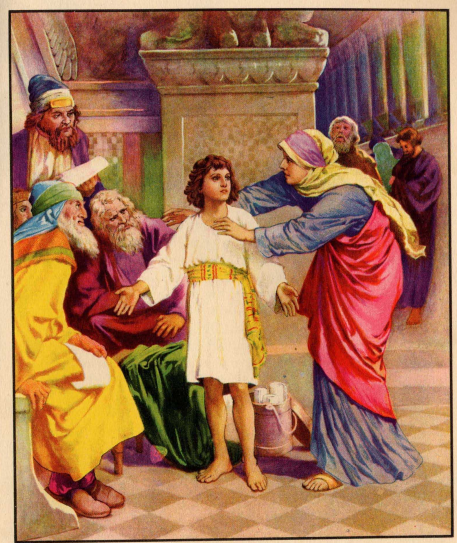
Going home was back to Nazareth in a largish group – who could defend themselves against robbers. Much organisation was needed and no telephones to help. Being in the temple with older Bible scholars was his biggest joy and he just forgot about going home.

At the Passover festival most Jewish (Israelite) families

journeyed to Jerusalem to honour God's command to not forget the night that "The angel of death 'passed over' the Israelite houses" but brought death to the first born of all the Egyptians (read about it in Exodus 12:12-30). All Egyptian firstborn died that night and after 400 years of slavery in Egypt, all the Israelites were going to leave Egypt first thing in the morning. (Also in the movie *The Ten Commandments*, with Yul Brunner and Charlton Heston).

Although only twelve years old Jesus was very interested in God and the Torah – the five books of Moses and he did not think about joining his family group to go home. Jesus had no deliberate plan in his mind to 'stay behind' but to be in the temple, just talking about God with the older temple leaders was all important to him. His parents (remember the angel spoke to both of them about Jesus 13 years ago, and with Simeon when Jesus was eight days old), on the first night when the group made camp they could not find Jesus even though they asked about him at everyone's campsite. They could not find him.

So it was back to Jerusalem to search for him and they found him in the temple and said to him: "Son, why have you done this to us? We have missed three days now looking for you." Now comes the first words ever recorded of Jesus speaking. (I copy this passage from my Newbery Bible from 1949 when English was different). I like this translation: "And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him they were amazed and his mother said to him, "Son, why has thou thus dealt with us? Behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." And he said unto them, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" And they understood not the saying that he spake unto them. And he went down with them and came to Nazerath and was subject to them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men. (He was with them for another eighteen (18) years.) (Lk 2:47-52)



THE BOY JESUS VISITS JERUSALEM