

## *The FOUNDation*

It's hard to fathom the depths of relief which Mary and Joseph must have felt when they FOUND Jesus, safe in the Temple...(Luke 2:41-52). The agony of His loss was replaced by the shock of this blessing: the boy found after 3 days of searching everywhere! Perhaps they had gone to the Temple to offer sacrifices to God in hopes of finding Jesus...and there He was!

Being FOUND is one of the most beautiful experiences in the world, not only for the person found, but for the finder. Jesus seemed to be surprised that His parents wouldn't know where He was. Mary and Joseph probably experienced the relief-followed-by-admonishment response: "Oh, thank God you are safe, *but how could you do this to us?* We looked everywhere; you strayed from the caravan!" Then a heavy, long hug. Being found is a strange and wonderful experience!

Mary and Joseph had some responsibility in this, too. They assumed that Jesus was with relatives in the caravan that was heading back to Nazareth. They weren't sure WHERE He was and must have assumed He was safe, perhaps due to what others had told them. So, when He came up missing, some of their emotions might have been guilt and remorse that they had not been better stewards of their son's welfare.

The ironic thing...who was REALLY lost? Jesus, or Mary and Joseph? Yes, Jesus had been lost by them. He could not be found. But He was in His Father's house—the Temple. His mother and foster-father were the lost ones: lost in their fear and grief and guilt and worry. So Jesus was not the only one found safe in the Temple.

Have you ever been lost? Have you ever "lost your self"? It is a horrible place to be! This has happened to me many times in the past 41 years, because of my bipolar disorder's fracturing ways—either lost in the pit of depression, or lost in frightening (to others) mania—like Icarus, in Greek mythology...the boy whose wax wings melted because he got over-zealous and flew too close to the sun, melting the wax on his wings, and sending him tumbling out of the sky and into the sea. LOSTNESS—feeling dead, feeling "too alive," trying to find balance and PEACE.

We have all felt lost at one time or another, I'm sure. But it is the "being found" that we probably most remember and are grateful for. Like Mary and Joseph finding Jesus safe in the Temple—it is a marvelous place to be!

The old joke goes: the preacher asks a stranger, "Have **you** found Jesus?" The stranger replies, *"Oh, I didn't know he was lost!"*

Let us FIND JESUS in our hearts and minds as we travel our separate and joined paths. He is waiting—waiting for you to find Him!

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