

JESUS SON OF GOD & SON OF MAN DOING HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS **(Luke 2:41-52)**

Today's Gospel lesson is the only passage in the Bible that covers Jesus' childhood. It portrays Jesus right from his childhood His ability as Messiah. It portrays His faithfulness; His social development with those older than Him; It shows His ability and surprising knowledge beyond any child; It also recognizes signs of Jesus' Messiahship at an early age; It shows His obedience being favored by God and man.

It was a custom to keep the three Jewish feasts, especially the Feast of the Passover every year. That explains why Jesus and His parents came to Jerusalem. It was required by Law to attend the temple three times a year: at the Passover, Pentecost and the feasts of Tabernacles (Ex. 23:14-17). Although women were exempt from this Law to attend as they wished, Mary chose to do both: to parent and to come to Jerusalem for the Feasts.

The question us men and women alike, How are we committed to attending our assemblies in the Church community? Do we care? Do we mind? Do we observe these moments? Jesus worshipped because His parents worshipped. What we do kids imitate and do. What we don't do, children will not be exposed to doing. Kids learn by seeing, hearing, and even imitating others. Jesus grew physically, spiritually, mentally and socially by following the parent's lead.

Jesus had turned Twelve. At thirteen, Jesus and any Jewish boy of that age he became *Son of the Law*, **Bar mitzvah**. These days there is also a *bath mitzvah* for girls as well. Now He was considered a man and was expected to keep the all Law. He had come that Passover to familiarize himself with the system.

Every child who becomes of age should be charged with becoming a responsible young man or young woman who must contribute to the world around him/her. It is written in Dt. 6:7 that, *"And you shall teach (commandments) diligently to your children, and you shall talk about them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up."*

suppose that Jesus was with them, Mary and Joseph went a day's journey only to realize that He was not with them. They thought He was probably left behind while socializing with His peers because that is what children do. Three days of emotional searching, they found Jesus discussing and learning from the teachers of the Law or we might as well call them doctors of theology and religion. What a surprise?

These were none other than Gamaliel, The great Rabbi and Teacher of Saul or Pau the Apostle; Hillel, the most revered liberal teacher; Shammai the most revered conservative teacher (Mt 19:1-12); Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night and Simeon. Jesus was listening (akouonta) to what the teachers were teaching. Jesus was asking them questions (eperotonta). He wanted answers and more understanding. Jesus was answering (apokrisin) their questions. Any

student who would learn must have these skills at hand. Scripture says, that Jesus revealed phenomenal understanding and knowledge as to astonish these doctors and teachers divinity. They were amazed (existanto de), overwhelmed, bewildered at His understanding.

When a child is not well exposed to good schools, colleges and universities, his or her chances of success are limited. Education is a blessing to every parent's child to succeed in life.

Jesus was on a mission. The mission given to Him by His Father. When Mary and Joseph finally found Him in the Temple with the Doctors of Theology and religion he responded to them that He was going about His father's business.

What is our heavenly Father's business that we all have to take care of? God was His father and He was taking care of His Father's business. God is our Father and we are called to take care of the heavenly Father's business as well. We are on a mission. We have been commissioned to do our Father's business.

We have to do our Heavenly father's business even if His work is not well understood or comprehended. *"I must do the works of Him that sent me, while it is day, Jesus said, the night comes, when no man can work"* (John 9:4)

Every person is to serve God first, even if the work is not understood. And most times it is often not understood. We must be faithful to God and his calling even if we are misunderstood.

Amen