

Pondering in our Heart
Scriptural Reflections on Mary

In Search of Jesus - The Finding in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

Text

Every year Jesus' parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the celebrations, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan. It was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men.

Pondering the Word

- The scene in the temple highlights the young Jesus' concern to carry out the Father's will and fulfill his mission. What do Jesus' actions among the teachers tell you about his understanding of himself? How do you think he came to an awareness of his mission?
- Mary "*kept all these things in her heart*" (Lk 2:51). What do you think these "*things*" were? Why was this incident so memorable for Mary and Joseph?

For Personal Reflection

- Have you ever been lost? If so, how did it happen and how did you feel? What did you learn from this experience?

- Have you ever felt that you have “lost” God through sin or through your own luke-warmness? What did you do to “find” him again?
- How willing are you to reflect over puzzling situations and ponder them patiently, as Mary did? How can you better accept God’s ways in your life and in the lives of your loved ones, even when you don’t understand them?

Prayer

*Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ,
we bless you that you did not come to us
as a bolt from the blue
but as a child in your mother’s womb;
that you did not cling to
your equality with God
but emptied yourself
and became as all men are,
Even to accepting death on a cross.*

*We thank you for crowning our humanity
with the gift of a life lived for others.
We bless you for your struggle
to do your Father’s will in all things,
even when it bewildered and hurt
those who were closest to you.*

*Help us to hallow the Father’s name
and be open to do his will.
May we be steadfast in praying your prayer,
that our Father’s will may be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Amen.*