

## “Footsteps”

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said,  
Mark 1:17

Jesus Teaching in the Temple  
Luke 2:41-51

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

*Every male Israelite was expected to travel to Jerusalem three times yearly to the great festivals, of which one was the Passover.*

<sup>42</sup> When He was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

*When Jesus, or any Jewish boy, reached the age of 13, He became “of age,” and was expected to begin these pilgrimages. Jesus began His a year early.*

*About 21 years later, Jesus would eat another Passover feast, this Passover feast has come to be known as “The Last Supper.” The Passover was considered the most important of the three great annual festivals of Israel.*

<sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

<sup>44</sup> Thinking He was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for Him among their relatives and friends.

*Mary and Joseph, and thousands of pilgrims like them, traveled to and from the great festivals in Jerusalem by caravan. Some rode on donkeys or camels, but most walked. People traveled together in caravans for*

*protection, for numerous robbers lay in wait along the way.*

*At night, they stopped at crude inns, completely unlike our modern motels, without any form of luxury, with a well in an open courtyard, places for the animals at the ground level, and places for people on the second-floor. Sometimes these inns had bazaars where traveling merchants traded their goods.*

<sup>45</sup> When they did not find Him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

*Can you even imagine the fear and emotions that Mary and Joseph must have experienced at this time? Many of us have had that sick and panicky feeling, momentarily, at the store or park when we do not see our child,*

<sup>46</sup> After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

*Three days they searched for Him. Three days. Three days they searched for Him and another day of traveling back to Jerusalem. Now four days without their Son.*

<sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding, wisdom and His answers.

*During the time of Jesus there were few remaining authorities on the Law of Moses, but those who remained were apparently there in the temple. Jesus may have found*

*them teaching in the sacred enclosures known as the Court of Priests and/or the Court of Israel.*

<sup>48</sup> When his parents saw Him, they were astonished. His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You.”

*Again, can you even imagine the joy and relief they must have felt?!*

*In Jesus’ time, a Jewish boy was taught the Law at age five, including catechetical instruction in synagogue schools. By the age of 12 he was expected to obey the Law, and at 13 wore the phylacteries as he recited his daily prayers. At the age of 12, Jesus was on the threshold of manhood, more like a boy of 18 today. At his time, He formally joined the religious community as a man responsible to keep the Law--including celebrating Passover at Jerusalem.*

*Phylacteries are small leather boxes, containing Scripture verses written on parchment were strapped to the forehead and left arm. See Deuteronomy 6:8,9.*

<sup>49</sup> “Why were you searching for Me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in My Father’s house?”

<sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what He was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

*Jesus was obedient to His parents, but He had now reached the age of religious responsibility.*

*He used this incident at the temple to make a statement about the priority of His relationship with His Heavenly Father.*

***Two more things . . .***

*Thing One:*

*You may want to tell your child about a time they were very briefly ‘lost’ in a store, park or neighborhood.*

*I generally tell the darling children about how my mother and I were in a ‘Dime Store’ when I was about four or five. I stopped to look at some wallets and she kept going. After a bit, a clerk saw that my mother was not with me. She took me to the front of the store and asked what my mother was wearing; I said a grey coat (must have been winter). The clerk asked over the public address system if there was a lady in a grey coat who had lost her little girl. My mother came forward. I was glad to see her but I was never afraid or scared; and I really don’t know why I was not fearful. That was a l o n g time ago.*

*Thing Two:*

*This lesson/story was my oldest son’s favorite Bible Story when he was growing up. I wonder how many times I have told and taught this amazing story of Jesus amazing the Temple Scholars?*

# **Jesus Teaching in the Temple**

Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques"

**Here is Jesus  
Here is Jesus.  
Growing Up  
Growing Up  
Going to the temple  
Going to the temple  
He is 12  
He is 12.**

**Where is Jesus  
Where is Jesus  
Is he lost?  
Is he lost?  
Everyone is looking  
Everyone is looking  
Where is he?  
Where is he?**

**In the temple  
In the temple  
He is there  
He is there  
Talking to the teachers  
Talking to the teachers  
In God's house  
In God's house**

**By: Barbara Wulliman  
Philippines**