

“FINDING JESUS?” HE’S NEVER BEEN LOST!

I have always been a fan of Country Music — the real kind of country music — not the pseudo-country music spewed out of Nashville today. But one recent song's lyrics made shivers run up and down my spine because of its irreverent reference to the Son of God. The song's lyrics said, "I found Jesus on the jail house floor." That is typical of the experiential religion that the majority of people in the world embrace today. But Jesus is *not* on a jail house floor. He is, today, where He has always been — in His Father's house, being about His Father's business. Jesus is not lost. It is man who is lost.

The only account of Jesus' childhood recorded in the New Testament is related by Luke. **"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions"** (Luke 2:41-46). Great lessons for us are found in this lone account of Jesus' childhood. Here are some of them.

“Supposing” Christ Is With Us

Luke 2:44 says they went on their way, *supposing* that Jesus was with them. How many religious people today live life merely *supposing* that Jesus is with them and approves of everything they do? They do not investigate the Bible for themselves, but take the words of a preacher, *supposing* that's all they need.

But each of us must investigate for himself. We are to study God's word (**2 Tim. 2:15**) in order to know the truth, for only by that knowledge can we be sure of our salvation (**John 8:32**). We should study to walk with Jesus, rather than *supposing* He is walking with us, and in order to do that we must walk in the Truth of God's word (**John 14:15; 1 John 1:5-7**).

Following Parents' Religion

Joseph and Mary committed another fallacy that is oft repeated today, **Luke 2:44** also says they *thought* He was among their *kinsfolk and acquaintances*. How many people today will say, "Well my parents' religion is good enough for me?" or "My friends practice this or that religion?" without realizing that parents and friends can be wrong in their religious practices. Though he was sincere in what he did, Paul was wrong and had to change his religion (**Acts 23:2; Phil. 3:8; Gal. 1:13-14**). The standard of true religion is not parents or friends, but the word of God. Paul wrote that God's word "**is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"** (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

Parents can be wrong in their religion. Jesus said his religion would set parents and children against each other. **"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household"** (**Matt. 10:34-36**).

Yes, parents, like Joseph and Mary, can be wrong, but Christ's way cannot (**John 14:6**). It cannot be wrong to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (**John 8:24; Acts 16:30**). It cannot be wrong to repent of one's sins (**Acts 2:38; 17:30-31**). It cannot be wrong to confess Christ before men (**Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37**) and it cannot be wrong to be baptized in order to be saved (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**). Paul followed the

religion of his "fathers" (**Gal. 1:13-14**) but gave that up when he learned the truth of Jesus Christ. That takes courage, but when parents follow a religion not found in the New Testament it must be given up if one is to please God.

Jesus Is Not Lost

When Joseph and Mary learned they were mistaken, **Luke 2:45** says they **"turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him."** That's the answer to every question regarding where truth in religion is to be found. One must go back past Catholic councils, Protestant creeds, and the opinions of parents and friends, all the way to Jerusalem where the gospel began to be preached in **Acts 2**. It's there where Jesus will be found — as He said in **Luke 2:49** — being about His Father's business.

Contrary to what his parents feared, Jesus wasn't lost. His reply to them in the American Standard Version says, **"How is it that ye sought me? Knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house?"** God's house today is His church (**1 Tim. 3:15**) and that's where Jesus is. He was not lost at 12 years old and He is not lost today. It is man who is lost and if man would be saved, he must seek Jesus in God's house, the church, today.

Friends, think on these things. Good parents love their children and provide the necessities of life for them. But even "good parents" can be religiously wrong. Do not blindly accept the religion of parents, but investigate the Bible for yourselves. Jesus Christ has the words of life and He is the only way to the Father (**John 14:6**).

I can be wrong, my friends can be wrong, and my parents can be wrong, but the word of God is never wrong. In it we are told that we must hear the gospel (**Rom. 10:17**) believe it (**John 8:24**) repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3**) confess our faith in Christ (**Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:37**) and be baptized for the remission of sins (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**).

Jerry Brewer from *GospelPreceptor.com*

BIRTHDAYS

Joy Parish, 04-23; Jeremy Gragg, 04-24;
Michael Simmons, 04-25.

ILL

Sunday: Anne and Dee Adams, Gary Cole and Chris Edwards (AM). **Wednesday:** Melissa Cole, Chris Edwards and Allen Scott. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

BAPTISMS

We rejoice with Jared Nelson and Jennifer Carter, who were baptized into Christ on Sunday, April 16. We are grateful for their good example and pray for them a long and useful life of service in Christ.

OUT OF TOWN

Debra Gragg was out of town over the weekend. Myron Nebergall is in Jamacia on a construction mission.

WILSON-LYCAN WEDDING

Jim and Wanda Wilson request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Jodie Lynn Wilson to Donald Ray Lycan on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 6 PM. The ceremony will be held at the 151st Street Church of Christ building in Olathe, Kansas.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 59; Sunday PM, 46; Wednesday PM, 49.

Point to Ponder...

*“I must do something”
Will solve more problems than
“Something must be done”*

Those To Serve

April 23, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Gary Cole
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Ken Greer

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Myron Nebergall
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 26th

SONG LEADER..... Michael Simmons
INVITATION Jeff Nemechek

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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