

Pastor Jon's December 26, 2021 Sermon

Text: Luke 2:41-52

“Home Alone 4 Lost in Jerusalem”

I heard there is a new movie coming out. Home Alone 4 in Jerusalem. Isn't this the story in our Gospel? Jesus is left behind to fend for himself in the temple at the age of 12. We just had his birth story yesterday and now he is 12. A day later, his parents ask, “Jesus?” They looked among relatives and friends. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking questions. All were amazed at his understanding and answers. Already Jesus showed flashes of brilliance and divinity.

His parents scolded him. Jesus had parents just like us. “Jesus, why do you treat us like this? We have been worried sick about you.” Jesus responds, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? Ouch. Already Jesus is separating from his parents at the age of 12. I thought that was supposed to come when they are 18. What's that supposed to mean? They didn't understand.

After that, it says that Jesus was obedient to them. Some scholars believed Jesus may have went to rabbi school and others believed he grew up learning the carpentry trade. My favorite bumper sticker is... “My boss is a Jewish carpenter.” And Mary treasured all these things in her heart. It is like many of us who are raising kids. We ask, “I wonder what God has in store for our children?”

We too, like Mary and Joseph, worry about our kids. They will make decisions on their own and we have to let go at some point. But that doesn't stop our worries. We will pray for our kids the rest of our lives.

We will also make mistakes as parents. Kids need to have grace for their parents and parents need to have grace for their kids. We will mess up many times in life.

We can pair this up with our Colossians lesson. We need to keep putting on the clothing we received in our baptism.

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let

the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Amen!