



Table Talk

The Second Sunday After Christmas

January 03, 2020

Luke 2:40-52
“I must be in My Father’s house...” Vs. 49



This term, “my Father’s house,” used here by Jesus to indicate the Temple, contains the Greek word from which we derive our English word, “economy.” The word is a large word, encompassing something as simple as a household and the myriad of tasks which take place within, or as large as a nation and the multitude upon multitude of interactions taking place daily. The Gospel of John has it stretching from earth to heaven. The earthly place for “my Father’s house” is the Temple where Jesus taught the teachers (Lk. 2:46) and the Temple where Jesus chased out the moneychangers (Jn. 2:16). The heavenly place for “my Father’s house” is that place from which Jesus comes, returns, and promises his disciples he will deliver them into it (Jn. 14:2ff).

Mary and Joseph have lost something precious to them, their son. He was their extension into the future. Here, the anxious parents find Jesus, doing what he ought to do—teaching, and being where he ought to be—in his Father’s house. The undercurrents of tension in this episode, especially in the finding of Jesus, reveal a pair of frantic parents relieved to have found their son yet astonished at his composure and

complacency. Jesus, their son, seems totally absorbed in what he is doing and mystified that these parents of his should have thought he’d be doing otherwise. He expected them to know that he would be found in “my Father’s house.”

Jesus fills an economy larger than all the interactivity of a nation. Jesus fills an economy stretching from heaven to earth. Jesus, the one satisfying goal of our human search for that which is most precious to us, our extension into the future, our eternal life... Jesus will not be found no matter the diligence of the search... no matter the intensity of the need... no matter the faith of the searcher... Jesus will not be found in any other place than that place where his Word is preached and taught. He will be found in his Father’s house.

Table Talk: Discuss some fruitless searches made for Jesus.

Pray: Heavenly Father, let me hear your Word and find Jesus in it. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

Dean of Chapel for the Institute of Lutheran Theology

www.ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605)692-9337



Table Talk

The Second Sunday After Christmas

January 03, 2020

Luke 2:40-52
“I must be in My Father’s house...” Vs. 49



This term, “my Father’s house,” used here by Jesus to indicate the Temple, contains the Greek word from which we derive our English word, “economy.” The word is a large word, encompassing something as simple as a household and the myriad of tasks which take place within, or as large as a nation and the multitude upon multitude of interactions taking place daily. The Gospel of John has it stretching from earth to heaven. The earthly place for “my Father’s house” is the Temple where Jesus taught the teachers (Lk. 2:46) and the Temple where Jesus chased out the moneychangers (Jn. 2:16). The heavenly place for “my Father’s house” is that place from which Jesus comes, returns, and promises his disciples he will deliver them into it (Jn. 14:2ff).

Mary and Joseph have lost something precious to them, their son. He was their extension into the future. Here, the anxious parents find Jesus, doing what he ought to do—teaching, and being where he ought to be—in his Father’s house. The undercurrents of tension in this episode, especially in the finding of Jesus, reveal a pair of frantic parents relieved to have found their son yet astonished at his composure and

complacency. Jesus, their son, seems totally absorbed in what he is doing and mystified that these parents of his should have thought he’d be doing otherwise. He expected them to know that he would be found in “my Father’s house.”

Jesus fills an economy larger than all the interactivity of a nation. Jesus fills an economy stretching from heaven to earth. Jesus, the one satisfying goal of our human search for that which is most precious to us, our extension into the future, our eternal life... Jesus will not be found no matter the diligence of the search... no matter the intensity of the need... no matter the faith of the searcher... Jesus will not be found in any other place than that place where his Word is preached and taught. He will be found in his Father’s house.

Table Talk: Discuss some fruitless searches made for Jesus.

Pray: Heavenly Father, let me hear your Word and find Jesus in it. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

Dean of Chapel for the Institute of Lutheran Theology

www.ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605)692-9337





Table Talk

The Second Sunday After Christmas

January 03, 2020

Luke 2:40-52 English Standard Version (ESV)

40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.

43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,

45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.

49 And he said to them, why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.



Table Talk

The Second Sunday After Christmas

January 03, 2020

Luke 2:40-52 English Standard Version (ESV)

40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.

43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,

45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.

49 And he said to them, why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

