

Finding Jesus

- *Luke 2:41-47*

- **Today I want to take this very interesting passage of scripture & talk to you for a few minutes about an important issue that is affecting Christians around the world today.**
- **Following Jesus has long been our battle cry here in Inman & we have faithfully stood for 50 years as an organized church for the purpose of pointing people to Jesus & then encouraging them on as they follow the Lord in their life.**
 - However, with that being said, there have been those over the years who have started to follow Jesus and then, for some reason, they have turned aside.
 - Perhaps, like Demas, the pleasures of the world entrance them. At any rate, they lost Jesus. There are more than likely even some in the audience this morning who once followed Jesus faithfully, but now it is though you have lost Him.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **As we read this passage of scripture, our minds no doubt go back to times in our personal lives where perhaps, even for a moment, you have lost one of your children.**
 - Illustration
 - This is one of the most frightening things that could happen to a parent. And as tragic as it is to lose your children briefly, how much more tragic is it for us to lose our Savior?
- **Now let me say this from the very beginning & please make sure you're here me clearly ... we may lose Him, but He does not lose us. He is not far away, and if we are willing to seek after Him, He will surely be found of us.**
- **To give you some background to this text this morning, this story took place during the time of Passover.**
 - Now if you go back to the book of Exodus 12, you will remember how the Passover came about.
 - This took place of course during the time of bondage for the people of God & Pharaoh up until this point had been determined to keep the children of God captive there in Egypt. Yet God was about to deliver them in a very unique way.
 - God came to Moses & Aaron and instructed the people to take an unblemished, male lamb into their household on the 10th day.
 - They were to keep this lamb for 14 days in the household.
 - Then on that day, every family was to kill their lamb & take the blood of that lamb & apply it to the door posts of their home.
 - The blood has been collected in a basin. A bunch of hyssop has been dipped in the blood and the blood sprinkled on the posts of the door, for the word of God was, "When I see the blood, I will pass your door."
 - That was the O.T. Passover. Now fast-forward to the N.T. & we find that Jesus, the Son of God, is our Passover.
 - I Corinthians 5:7 – "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"
 - Once again, the O.T. is linking us to the N.T. Passover time.
 - The Passover time was still an extremely important time to the Jewish people here in the N.T. And here in Luke 2, we find 3 people who were present at the celebration of the Passover. They were a father and mother and a 12 year old boy whose name was Jesus.
 - Of all the people in the city that day, the little boy alone knew the depth of the meaning of the Passover feast.

- He knew about the slain lamb.
- He knew about the sprinkled blood.
- He knew about the ascriptions of praise to Jehovah.
- So these three took part in the feast together. When the day is finished and they are ready to start home, they began to say their good-bye's and the large crowd begins their journey home. On the way home, they began rejoicing no doubt & reflecting on the wonderful time they experienced at Passover.
- At some point in the journey after about a day, the mother of the boy turns to her husband to say: "Where is Jesus?" Their faces whiten and they begin to search for him. Now, I want you to notice this very significant expression, "and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance" but could not find Him. Three days they sought Him, and at last they make their way back to the city where they kept the feast, and here they find Jesus, sitting in the presence of the wise men asking and answering questions.
- What a startling event & the question enters many of our minds, how could they possibly have lost Jesus? I mean of all kids, you don't lose Jesus! But now go back to our text—"After three days they found Him."
- Maybe you are here this morning & as we talk about this event, you say, "Pastor, I used to walk closely with Jesus. I used to be on fire for God. I used to never go a day without talking to Him & reading His Word. But over the years, it seems as though I have lost Jesus. How can I find Him again?"

➤ **In order to find Jesus, it is necessary to first:**

1. Walk With Him.

- ANYBODY can have the privilege of walking with Jesus. Don't ever forget that!
 - Enoch walked with God. Dr. Andrew Bonar used to say that they walked so long together, and climbed so high in their journey, that at last the Lord turned to Enoch and said: "Enoch, we are much nearer heaven than earth. Why not pass in now?" And the doors swung open and they passed through the gates into the city.
 - In Luke 24, the disciples at Emmaus walked with Jesus. They did not know it was Jesus, but as they walked and talked with Him, suddenly their hearts burned within them. They knew that this was a marvelous person with them, but they could not quite interpret who he was.
- You and I too can find Jesus in the same ways as this. Walk with Him and talk with Him and you will know Him. The more you talk with Him and about Him, the better you will know Him. If you have lost Him you can find Him.

2. Follow After Him

- You can also find Jesus by doing His will.
 - I could ask Preacher Earl this morning, what is the greatest memory you have of your Father & Mother. Do you know what he would say?
 - It wasn't their riches.
 - It wasn't their big house.
 - The sweetest thing you remember most was that thy both walked with the Lord and talked with Him and they followed after Him.
 - You say, "But Pastor, I didn't have a Christian home to grow up in. I cant say that about my parents."
 - Maybe so, but I also know that it is possible to walk with Jesus even when the way isn't easy, even when the storms are tossing you, even when everything doesn't seem fair, you can still walk with God.

3. Don't Go On Without Him

- You know as sad as this story was that they walked without Jesus for 3 days before they knew it, the key is they didn't continue on walking without Him. They were determined to go & find Him no matter the cost.
- The saddest thing in this life is for a person to continue on walking without Him.
 - We have said this many times before, but I can't imagine walking where some of you have walked without Jesus.
 - Many of you have had a tough life,
 - Some of you have made some terrible choices even in life,
 - Many of you have gone through sickness & even the death of those closest to you,
 - But there is a difference in walking through life WITH Jesus ... and walking through these storms WITHOUT Him.
 - Perhaps you are here this morning & you are trying to stumble through life without Christ, why don't you seek Him out today?
- The Bible says that they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance and could not find Him. What a tragedy!
 - What a terrible thing for a child to search for Christ in their parents & not be able to find Him.
 - How tragic would it be for a person to walk through these doors, to hear the songs being sung, to hear the Word of God being preached & go back home to their family in search of Jesus & still not be able to find Him?
- **We are getting ready to celebrate Easter in 2 weeks. And for those disciples & Mary, perhaps they were troubled b/c deep in their hearts they felt they had lost Jesus. To them, life was worth living if they had to live without Jesus. But three days later, what a glorious find. They came back to the tomb early that morning & behold He was no longer there, for He had risen.**
- **You might as well make up your mind to this now—that your time is not worth anything to you or to God if you are without Jesus.**
 - They found Him where they lost Him. "Where did you lose Him?"
 - Was it through the death or sickness of someone close?
 - Was it through the heartbreak of a devastating divorce?
 - Was it through a tragedy in your life that rocked you to your core?
 - Regardless of where you lost Him, why don't you come back to Him today?
 - Let me remind you of a statement we made at the very beginning, though you may have lost Him, He never lost you. He knows exactly where you are this morning.
 - If you're saved & lost Jesus recently in your life, He is waiting today.
 - If you have never been saved, God has given you another opportunity to determine that both now & for eternity, you want to walk with Jesus. Why don't you choose Him today?