

1. At the time of this episode of Luke 2:41-52 Jesus was:
 - 1 A boy about twelve years old.
 2. His parents, Mary and Joseph, for the first time took him on a Passover pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
2. The celebration was ended and the parents joined the cavalcade of pilgrims returning through the valleys and over the hills of ancient Palestine to their homes:
 1. At the end of the day, when they were about to bed down for the night, they looked for Jesus but could not find him.
 2. They frantically searched among their kinsfolk and acquaintances for Jesus but did not find him
 3. Whatever was required they had to find this boy so they reversed their direction and hiked back to Jerusalem:
 1. There they searched the through the streets and in the market places.
 2. They searched in homes for a day but they found him not.
3. Jesus had been lost by the very people who loved him best. And where had they lost him?
 1. They had lost him right in the (church) Temple.
 2. Jesus Christ can be lost in the church...He has been lost in church. But the other side of this truth is:
 1. If you ever find Jesus you will have to find him in his church. where he is body and head.
4. Let us see how easy it is to lose Christ in church and how it may be done.
 1. He is most easily lost when his disciples give their primary attention to secondary things.
 1. Jesus must have first place. God's claims must come first. 1 Kings 17:8-16; Matt. 6:33
 2. Christ is often lost in the inordinant and excessive emphasis upon statistics.
 1. We renounce the idolatry of silver and gold only to substitute the idolatry of size.
 2. the church must be measured by spiritual vitality rather than in terms of Statistical Goliaths.

Eph. 1:22, 23

3. Christ can be lost in budgets and financial campaigns.
 1. Some times it seems our only concern is for larger budgets rather than a larger work.
 2. We become hazy in our thinking that seems always to be in impressed with a statistical Goliath and no concern at all for a statistical David with a slingshot.
 3. We know that for record and order some of these things are necessary But:
 1. To make impressive records of greater significance than spiritual reality is to miss the purpose of Christ's church and to crowd Christ out of it.
4. We lose Christ when we assume that Christianity is as sort of a "gospel bargain counter."
 1. There are not "gospel bargain counters".
 2. Christianity is the most costly thing in all the world. *Three halfhearted followers of Luke 9:57-62*
 3. That we might have Christianity it cost Christ his life.
 4. With reference to what it cost us let me say:
 1. When Christians are truly Christ's people there are no bargain hunters in the church and there are no money problems.
 2. However there could be one money problem:
 1. The elders would be working harder in seeking right ways to spend all the money rather than in contriving ways in which to promote you out of your money.
 2. *Elders to buy must plan, plot, scheme, fashion, front & design ways to get people to give.*
5. We lose Christ in Church in bad personal relations within the Church.
 1. People do not always see Christ in his disciples.
 2. Some unfriendly, unworthy demonstration imparts a disappointment.
 3. Some unpleasant encounter leaves resentment.
6. Having lost Christ how are we going to find him?
 1. We are not going to find him out in the world of pleasure, business; greed. Christ has been shunted aside for these things.
 2. There is only one way back to him. It is the way of Mary and Joseph. They lost him in the temple (church) and they found him just where they had lost him: In the church.

