
Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

Scripture Readings

January 3, 2021

*The Second Sunday
of Christmas*

..... About the text

THIS STORY OF JESUS at age 12 is a rarity in the Gospels, as it's the only glimpse we get of him between infancy and adulthood. Because there is not always a "Second Sunday of Christmas," we don't even see it every time we are hearing Luke's narrative. That's a shame.

The tween-aged boy is sitting among the scholars in the Temple, which is like a youth baseball league pitcher sitting in the bullpen at Yankee Stadium and debating the merits of the cut fastball with major leaguers and their coaches. He's more than holding his own. That's remarkable.

And the parents who took their boy to the big city and then boarded the waiting Metro North game day express to New Haven? All they know is, they lost their son in the crowds. That's scary.

And, that's the tension we experience between Jesus as "one of us" and Jesus as "part of God."



Luke 2:41-52

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search 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 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

41 Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. ⁴³ When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. ⁴⁵ When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

46 The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. ⁴⁷ The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. ⁴⁸ But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

49 He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?" ⁵⁰ But they had no idea what he was talking about.

51 So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. ⁵² And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and

| spirit, blessed by both God and people.

Psalm 2:7-8

I will tell of the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, "You are my son; today
I have begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will make the na-
tions your heritage, and the ends of the
earth your possession.

7 Let me tell you what GOD said next.
He said, "You're my son, · And today
is your birthday.

8 What do you want? Name it: · Na-
tions as a present? continents as a prize?

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.