

The title for today's message is: **Going About God's Business.**

Jesus said: **“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

We have now come to that time of the year when people are talking about their New Year's Resolutions. How about you, have you made one yet?

Have you ever stopped to think when and where the tradition of making a so called New Year's Resolution began?

Well the where was many years ago in the nation of Babylon. It was the custom there to end the year by resolving all those things that they failed to do the year before.

Now, the truth is, their resolutions were very simple, and a lot easier to keep, than those we make today.

For example, a Babylon's resolution might have sounded like this: “I resolve to return the farm tools I borrowed from my neighbor last year.”

Today, our resolutions are about losing weight, exercising more, and spending more time with family, sound great, but it's hard to keep.

Now in our Gospel lesson, Jesus speaks to us, teaching us by far, the best new year's resolution one could ever make.

A resolution we all can keep. Luke begins by telling us about the holy family a few years after Jesus was born.

Now were told that Mary and Joseph, a devout family, would always make the long journey to Jerusalem, every year for the Passover Feast.

Luke tells us, that once now the Passover Feast ended, Mary and Joseph began their trip home to Nazareth, and what a trip it turned out to be.

Remember, the most common mode of Transportation back then was walking on long trips the people would walk in groups it was safer that way.

Usually the adults would walk together in one group while the children would walk along in their own group, allowing them to play on the way.

Now, the journey to Nazareth took three-days, so on the first night, Mary and Joseph set up camp, and began looking for Jesus.

But they couldn't find Him anywhere. That's right, Jesus wasn't with the other children, as they thought He was.

Nor, was He with their relatives, or friends. He was nowhere to be found, Yes, Jesus was missing. He was gone, and without a trace.

Now if your a parent, and if your child has ever gone missing even for a second, you know the panic that sets in, so you can imagine how Mary and Joseph felt.

They were very upset, and the only thing they could think to do was to return to Jerusalem and look for Him there.

They looked for three days, and I'm sure all kinds of questions were racing through their minds. Questions like; is He lost? Is He hurt? Is He alive?

Or questions like; why didn't we keep a better eye on Him? Why did we simply assume He was with the other children?

But the truth was, Jesus wasn't lost at all, no He was where He should have been, it was His parents that were lost.

Non-the-less, they finally found Jesus, and for some reason, they found Him in a place they never thought they would find Him.

They found Him in the Temple Courts, sitting among the teachers, listening, and asking questions, even answering questions.

Can you imagine, finding your son amongst the elders, having a conversation with them at the young age of twelve.

Luke says; **all who heard him** (meaning Jesus) **were amazed at his understanding and his answers.**

But like all parents, once they found Jesus safe, their feelings of panic turned into anger, Jesus caused them great grief.

Luke says Mary rebuked Jesus, saying: **“Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.”**

Yet, Jesus doesn't respond by saying, “I'm sorry, I'll never do it again” like you might think He would have.

No! Instead, Jesus said: **“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”**

Wow! can you see yourselves questioning your parents concern, by saying in affect; come on didn't expect me to be here, what's wrong with you.

Look Jesus knew He was born to fulfill a divine mission. A mission to spend time in God's Word, listening, asking, and answering questions.

And Jesus, did in fact grow up to be the world's greatest teacher, perfectly going about His Father's business.

Which also would include suffering, being nailed to a cross and dying, defeating death, winning for us forgiveness of our sins and eternal life.

That was His ultimate mission in life, to be the Savior of all mankind. All the while being a good and faithful Son to Mary, and Joseph.

Now, Luke tells us that Jesus and His parents finally returned home, and from that time on He was submissive to them.

Now, this was the last recording of Jesus as a child. The next time we hear of Jesus, is at the age of thirty, as He begins to fulfill His divine mission

Let me ask you; do you realize that you too, have a divine mission in your life? That's right! We all do.

We're not here just to work hard simply to pay our bills, or to simply raise our children.

No! We, have a greater purpose, a deeper purpose. We too should be about our heavenly Father's business.

First, and foremost, we're here to listen, and believe in the Word of God, making His Word the biggest part of our life.

Including confessing our sins, and receiving His forgiveness. Literally changing the way we live our life.

And as we do, something great happens, we begin to go about our heavenly Father's business, glorifying Him in all we do.

How about you? Were you about God's business in 2019? Or, like many people, were you too busy, having too many other things to do?

I know you say that's not me, I go to church every Sunday, and as for glorifying God, its always been a part of my life.

But I ask you, what happens on Monday morning, who are you really glorifying then? God, or yourself?

Truly a question only you, and God can answer. Some might ask, did Jesus glorify His Father, by disobeying His parents, and staying at the Temple?

Yes, He was glorifying His Father. He came up missing because He was obeying His Father's will.

But, are you willing to come up missing in order to obey God the Father? Are you willing to go about you're his business?

Now, you may not have realized it, but many of you did just that. Many of you left family, or maybe a party, to attend Christmas Eve services.

That can be a difficult thing to do. You had to rearrange things, so that you could come, and hear the Word of God, worshiping the Christ child.

Doing so is all about going, about the Father's business. And in this world we live in today, there's nothing better for us to do.

How about sports, and other so called fun things we do, are you willing to sacrifice those things, by rearranging your schedule, all for your heavenly Father.

You know, coming up missing from these events, so that you could go about, your heavenly Father's business?

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Or, did you simply push God the Father aside in 2019. After all something had to give, right?

Was that you? What about work, and those projects at home? Were they your first priority, leaving no time for God?

Now, this morning, I would like to recommend to you, what I think is the greatest New Year's resolution of all, one that we all can keep.

And that is to make God's Word, your number one priority, in 2020. Starting by confessing all your sins, and receiving God's forgiveness.

Confess all the times you let your Heavenly Father unattended, in order to pursue the things of this world.

My friends, this isn't a tough thing to do. Jesus has already paid the price for all our sins when He died on the cross?

Look, long before we were even born, our sins had been washed away by the blood of Christ.

My friends, were completely forgiven in the eyes of God, receive His forgiveness, and allow the Holy Spirit to change your life.

And then you will become one who glorifies God. Sure, you may have to "come up missing".

But you will be blessed, much more than someone who fails to glorify God in all they do.

Its within our Father's business, and within His Word, that we find the Christ child, born on that first Christmas.

So let going about your heavenly Father's business, be your New Year's resolution not only in 2020, but forevermore.

God bless this year, 2020, to Christ the King, you, your family, and all believers in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.