

Finding the twelve year old Jesus in the Temple

This is the version of the Bible Holman Hunt would have used.

Luke 2:41-51 (King James Version)

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover*. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried* behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors*, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast* thou*

thus* dealt with us? Behold*, thy* father and I have sought thee* sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist* ye* not that I must be about my Father's business?

And they understood not the saying which he spake* unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Vocabulary

***Passover** - celebrated the Hebrew slaves being freed under Moses

***Tarried** - delayed, stayed behind

***Doctors** - educated people, teachers

***Hast** - have

***Wist** - knew

***Ye** - you

***Spake** - spoke

***Thee, thou, ye** - all forms of 'you'

***Thus** - 'in this way'

***Behold** - look

***Thy** - your



Finding the 12 year old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:41-51 (Contemporary English Version)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for Passover*. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they all went there as usual for the celebration. After Passover his parents left, but they did not know that Jesus had stayed on in the city. They thought he was travelling with some other people, and they went a whole day before they started looking for him. When they could not find him with their relatives and friends, they went back to Jerusalem and started looking for him there.

Three days later they found Jesus sitting in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was surprised at how much he knew and at the answers he gave. When his parents found him, they were amazed. His mother said, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried, and we have been searching for you!"

Jesus answered, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" But they did not

understand what he meant. Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and obeyed them. His mother kept on thinking about all that had happened.

***Passover** - a festival that celebrated the Hebrew slaves being freed under Moses

Finding the 12 year old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:41-51 (paraphrase for younger pupils)

Every year, Mary, Joseph and Jesus would go to the big city of Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Passover. They would go to worship in the Temple and celebrate with other people who had travelled with them. When Jesus was twelve, he went with his family to Jerusalem as usual. After the celebrations they began the long walk home. Often the women walked together and the men walked together. As they camped for the night Mary looked for Jesus; she thought he had been walking with Joseph. Joseph, too, was looking for Jesus; he thought Jesus was with Mary. Both felt sick with worry, where was Jesus?

Mary and Joseph walked back to Jerusalem and spent days looking for Jesus. They found him talking with the clever teachers in the Temple. The teachers were surprised that such a young boy understood so much.

Mary and Joseph were relieved to find Jesus in the temple. Mary was upset; she said to Jesus: 'Son, why have you made us worried like this? We have been looking everywhere for you!'

Jesus replied, 'I thought you knew I would be in my Father's house.' Mary and Joseph did not understand. Jesus went home to Nazareth with them and obeyed them. Mary remembered what had happened and kept thinking about it.