

Luke 2:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

Analysis

The parents 'supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey' shows reasonable assumption that proved mistaken. Large pilgrimage groups made it logical to expect Jesus among relatives and acquaintances. Their 'seeking him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance' demonstrates thorough search when He wasn't found. This detail emphasizes their growing alarm and the genuineness of the crisis. That they traveled a full day before discovering His absence shows the pilgrimage group's size and their trust in community care. The incident teaches that even godly parents can make incorrect assumptions and face unexpected crises with their children. Mary and Joseph's experience models appropriate response when children are missing.

Historical Context

Pilgrimage caravans consisted of extended families and community members traveling together. Children and women often walked separately from men, making it reasonable for parents not to see their son during a day's journey. The discovery of His absence would have created significant anxiety given travel dangers.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How should parents respond when facing unexpected crises with their children?
2. What does this teach about the limitations of even godly parenting?
3. How can reasonable assumptions prove mistaken, requiring course correction?

Interlinear Text

νομίσαντες	δὲ	αὐτὸν	ἐν	τῇ	συνοδίᾳ	εἶναι
they supposing	But	him	among	G3588	the company	to have been
G3543	G1161	G846	G1722		G4923	G1511
ἦλθον	ἡμέρας	ὁδὸν	καὶ	ἀνεζήτησαν	αὐτὸν	ἐν τοῖς
went	a day's	journey	and	they sought	him	among
G2064	G2250	G3598	G2532	G327	G846	G1722
συγγενέσιν	καὶ	ἐν	τοῖς	γνωστοῖς		
their kinsfolk	and	among	G3588	acquaintance		
G4773	G2532	G1722		G1110		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:3 (Parallel theme): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.