

Luke 2:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

Analysis

Finding Him not among acquaintances, 'they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him' demonstrates parental responsibility and persistence. The phrase 'turned back' indicates retracing their steps, adding another day to the journey. Their 'seeking him' shows determined search, not passive waiting. This models appropriate parental response to missing children—immediate action, retracing steps, persistent search. The three-day separation (one day travel, one day return, one day searching Jerusalem) creates dramatic tension and Mary's later anguished question. Their willingness to retrace steps and search demonstrates sacrificial parental love and responsibility. The incident prefigures Jesus's three days in the tomb before resurrection.

Historical Context

Returning to Jerusalem required another full day's journey, then searching a city swollen with Passover pilgrims. The difficulty and danger of this search demonstrates their parental devotion. Jerusalem during Passover hosted hundreds of thousands, making finding one twelve-year-old extremely challenging.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the parents' persistent search teach about parental responsibility?
2. How does the three-day period prefigure Jesus's death and resurrection?
3. What does their willingness to retrace steps teach about responding to crises?

Interlinear Text

καὶ μὴ εὐρόντες αὐτὸν, ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς
And not when they found him they turned back again to
G2532 G3361 G2147 G846 G5290 G1519

Ἱερουσαλὴμ ζητοῦντες αὐτὸν,
Jerusalem seeking him
G2419 G2212 G846

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