

# Luke 2:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Mary's response—"Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing"—reveals her maternal distress but also her limited understanding. She refers to Joseph as 'thy father,' yet Jesus' response corrects this, pointing to His true Father. Mary's natural anxiety is understandable, but she hadn't yet fully grasped Jesus' unique identity and mission. This incident marks a transition—Jesus' increasing awareness of His divine sonship begins to create tension with normal family expectations.

## Historical Context

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In first-century Jewish culture, a son's primary duty was obedience to parents. Mary's rebuke ('why hast thou thus dealt with us?') was legitimate by cultural standards—Jesus had caused His parents serious distress by remaining behind without informing them. The reference to 'sorrowing' (Greek 'odynōmenoi,' ὄδυνωμενοι, suffering pain/anguish) emphasizes their emotional torment. That Jesus prioritized His Father's business over His parents' wishes challenged normal filial duty, hinting that His higher allegiance to God would sometimes override earthly relationships.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Mary's reference to Joseph as Jesus' father contrast with Jesus' true identity, and what does this misunderstanding reveal?
2. What does this incident teach about the tension between earthly family relationships and ultimate allegiance to God?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτοῦ ἐξεπλάγησαν καὶ πρὸς αὐτοῦ ἡ  
And when they saw him they were amazed And unto him G3588  
G2532 G1492 G846 G1605 G2532 G4314 G846

μήτηρ αὐτοῦ εἶπεν Τέκνον τί ἐποίησας ἡμῖν οὕτως  
mother him said Son why dealt with us thus G3779  
G3384 G846 G2036 G5043 G5101 G4160 G2254

ἰδού, ὁ πατήρ σου κάγὼ ὀδυνώμενοι ἐζητοῦμέν σε  
behold G3588 father thy and I sorrowing have sought thee G4571  
G2400 G3962 G4675 G2504 G3600 G2212

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 2:49** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

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