



Breaking Open the Word - 2022 -

December 26, 2021

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Lectionary: 17

Gospel LK 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Spiritual Reflection: Today's Gospel teaches us that being sinless and not making mistakes are two different things. Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph make a mistake and "misplace" Jesus for a while. They also demonstrate to us how to handle family crisis without turning them into sin filled situation. All three members of the Holy Family remain respectful of each other in their moment of crisis.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How can you improve relationships in your family?
2. How can you deal with situations in your family without sinning?
3. What would this story look like in your family?
4. How does prayer work in your family?
5. How do you show each other love?