

March 20, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

JOSEPH AND MARY SEARCH FOR JESUS The Solemnity of St. Joseph

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Reading

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.

LUKE 2:41-51a

Reflection

This story of Jesus in his twelfth year reveals the first time in the gospels that we hear Jesus speaking for himself about his growing relationship with his Father. The setting was in Jerusalem where the family had gathered to celebrate the Passover. When the time came to return to Nazareth, the families left in a caravan headed north. Jesus took advantage of the situation and slipped into the temple to listen to the teachers talking about God. After traveling a day's journey, Joseph and Mary realized that Jesus was not with the relatives and friends and were filled with great anxiety and sorrow. Joseph, the father of this family, may have asked himself, after all he had done to protect their son from harm, how could he have allowed this to happen? Jesus' mother suffered the horrible pain of loss of her son, wondering if he was safe or injured.

We know how Joseph and Mary found Jesus on the third day, sitting with the teachers, and asking them questions. With great astonishment, Mary blurted out to Jesus, "Child, why...?" Their hearts had been torn, greatly suffering, searching for him. The answer Jesus gave them was filled with mystery and confusion. He responded to his mother with a 'Why question.' "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know..." How could they begin to understand the words their son was saying to them? The family began to make their way home to Nazareth, where the scriptures tell us, Jesus was obedient to his parents.



Photo by Sr. Herlinda Ramirez-Machado, CSJ

For Pondering & Prayer

It would seem that this was a crucial moment for Joseph to hear that Jesus wanted to be “in his Father’s house.” Until this time, Joseph had provided a home for his family. Now something new was stirring in his son – Jesus was

beginning to waken to his special calling that his Heavenly Father had designed for him. Joseph was learning that he still needed to listen deeply for God's direction and wisdom.

Years earlier, when Joseph realized his betrothed was pregnant, he listened to God's direction through the angel's message in a dream. When the infant Jesus' life was in danger from Herod's decree, Joseph was again guided by God's angelic messenger. Like the psalmist, Joseph could pray, *"The Lord hears me whenever I call...I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety"* (Ps. 4:4, 9). Joseph was a man of trust in God's marvelous love. He could pray with the psalmist, *"I will bless you, Lord, you give me counsel, and even at night direct my heart. I keep you, Lord, ever in my sight..."* (Ps. 16:7-8)

During uncertain times, perhaps Joseph's prayer will give us all guidance to listen deeply, leaning on God's gracious heart full of wisdom.

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

[Support Us Here](#)




**Center for
Spiritual
Development**
COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY

[Visit Website](#)

[\(714\) 744-](#)

[Join Mailing](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 744-3175

[Unsubscribe knuernberg@csjorange.org](mailto:knuernberg@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bythecsd@csjorange.org