

## IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

**Luke 2:41-51c**

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 28th Day of Lent

Luke 2:49: "Why were you searching for me?" Jesus asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

In this passage, we find Jesus and some relatives traveling back from Jerusalem from the Festival of Passover. Jesus' parents discover halfway through the trip that Jesus stayed behind in the temple courts. Jesus' reasoning for staying behind was to sit among the teachers while teaching some of his own lessons.

When Jesus begins to speak in verse 49 about His whereabouts, He is shocked to hear that his kin didn't know he had stayed behind.

When I read this verse--particularly the second half of it—I'm reminded of the joy I find when I'm in the house of God on Sundays, Wednesdays or any day. Being among fellow believers on a consistent basis helps with our faith walk and keeps us accountable.

There's a song from Elevation Worship based out of Charlotte, North Carolina and the lyrics go "In Your presence there is freedom, In Your presence there is hope." How those words could not be truer.

My job at Concord University as Sports Information Director pulls me away from church 8-10 Sundays a year on average, but after I miss a Sunday, the next Sunday I feel the presence of God a little bit more than normal because I'm in my Father's house after not being fed for a week. Anytime, we enter the Father's house we should have a special feeling about the reverence of God.

Another way I enter God's presence is at conference youth events. I've been fortunate and blessed to work with youth in the conference since 2011. When I step back and see the young people of our church worshipping our Lord, not only does my facial expression light up, but so does my heart.

I hope during this Lenten season you can find more time to be in the presence and house of the Father.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for the freedom of worship and opportunity to be in Your presence. May we grow during this time we celebrate your journey to Jerusalem, death and resurrection to save us from sin. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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