

# Laszlo Honti - A Day's Journey (5/5/18)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 86:1-7

## **The Story:**

Luke 2:40 - We aren't told very much about Jesus' life before His public ministry. But here in this summary verse Luke tells us that as Jesus grew He was blessed by God with wisdom and strength.

Luke 2:41-45 - Joseph and Mary were so engaged in the events and conversations of the day that they went a whole day's journey without Jesus.

*"In returning from Jerusalem with the crowd, talking and visiting engrossed their minds, and Jesus was forgotten for an entire day. His absence was not observed until the close of the day. Joseph and Mary had been honoured of God in an especial manner, in being entrusted with the responsible charge of the Saviour. Angels had heralded his birth to the shepherds, and God had directed the course of Joseph, to preserve the life of the infant Saviour. But the confusion of much talk had led to the neglect of their sacred trust, and Jesus was not brought to mind for an entire day, by those who should not have forgotten him for a moment.*

*They returned their weary way, sad and fearful, to Jerusalem. They recalled the terrible massacre of innocent children by the cruel Herod in hope of destroying the king of Israel." Ellen White, Spirit of Prophecy Volume 2, pg 34*

Too often we become so absorbed in the events and stresses of our lives that we become side-tracked from the most important things!

Luke 2:46-50 - They tried to blame Jesus, but His response was simple - I was about my Father's business...

*"When their anxiety was relieved by finding Jesus, they did not acknowledge their own neglect of duty, but their words reflected on Christ— "Why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." Jesus, in most respectful language, inquires, "How is it that ye sought me?" But these words modestly reflect back the censure upon themselves, in reminding them that, if they had not permitted themselves to be engrossed with matters of no special importance, they would not have had the trouble of searching for him. He then justifies his course: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" While he was engaged in the work he came to the earth to perform, they had neglected the work his Father had especially entrusted to them. They could not fully comprehend the words of Christ; yet Mary, in a great measure,*

*understood their import, and laid them away in her heart to ponder over in the future." Ellen White, Spirit of Prophecy Volume 2, pg 34*

### **The Application:**

Why was this story included in the Bible?

- 1 Corinthians 10:11 - It was written for our benefit.

It can take us days to retrace the steps back to Christ after stepping away from Him. Let us learn from this mistake!

- Is the Saviour an abiding presence in my life today?

It is ok for us to have had Jesus present in our lives in the past, but what good does that do us today? We need a fresh experience every day!

*"It is Satan's constant study to keep the minds of men occupied with those things which will prevent them from obtaining the knowledge of God. He seeks to keep them dwelling upon what will darken the understanding and discourage the soul. We are in a world of sin and corruption, surrounded by influences that tend to allure or dishearten the followers of Christ." Ellen White, Testimonies Volume 5, pg 740*

Matthew 24:12 - When we fix our minds upon the world we loose our love for Jesus.

Pilgrims's Progress (Doubting Castle) - In the story Pilgrims Progress by John Bunyan, Christian & Hopeful (two of the characters in the allegorical story) visit the river of life and are refreshed and inspired, but after they leave there the path becomes more and more difficult to tread, and they, weary and weak, decide to take another road that leads slowly but surely away from the narrow way. Following another character Vain Confidence along the way they are led right into the Kingdom of Doubt. How were they led there? By taking their eyes of Jesus for a little while, they were led well out of the way. In the story it tells of their experience in the Kingdom of Doubt, and how few there are that escape that Kingdom. They did escape, and here is how...

Daniel 5:12 - In this caricature of Daniel, one of the descriptors used is that he was a "dissolver of doubts." How did Daniel dissolve doubt? And how do we? By fixing our minds daily on Christ!

Let us not loose our confidence in God by loosing our focus on Christ!

"They keep uppermost before the mind the masterly working of the arch deceiver and dwell upon the discouraging features of their experience, while they seem to lose sight of the heavenly Father's power and His matchless love. All this is as Satan would have it. It is a mistake to think of the enemy of righteousness as clothed with so great power, when we dwell so little upon the love of God and His might. We must talk of the mightiness of Christ. We are utterly powerless to rescue ourselves from the grasp of Satan; but God has appointed a way of escape. The Son of the Highest has strength to fight the battle for us, and "through Him that loved us" we may come off "more than conquerors." Ellen White, Testimonies Volume 5, pg 740

Isaiah 14:14 - Lucifer wanted to dwell 'in the place of God.' Our doubts give Satan what he wants! They put him in the place of God to us...

"With amazement angels witnessed the Saviour's despairing agony. The hosts of heaven veiled their faces from the fearful sight. Inanimate nature expressed sympathy with its insulted and dying Author. The sun refused to look upon the awful scene. Its full, bright rays were illuminating the earth at midday, when suddenly it seemed to be blotted out. Complete darkness, like a funeral pall, enveloped the cross. "There was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour." There was no eclipse or other natural cause for this darkness, which was as deep as midnight without moon or stars. It was a miraculous testimony given by God that the faith of after generations might be confirmed. In that thick darkness God's presence was hidden. He makes darkness His pavilion, and conceals His glory from human eyes. God and His holy angels were beside the cross. The Father was with His Son. Yet His presence was not revealed. Had His glory flashed forth from the cloud, every human beholder would have been destroyed. And in that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father's presence. He trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him." Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, pg 753

### **Conclusion:**

No matter how far away we go from Jesus, let us not be discouraged. God loves us! He is still with us no matter how far we wander.

*"I have read of a little bird that while his cage is full of light never sings the songs his master would teach him. He will listen, and learn a snatch of this, a trill of that, but never a separate and entire melody. But the master covers his cage, and then, in the dark, he listens to the one song he is to sing. He tries and tries again to sing that song, until it is learned, and he breaks forth in perfect melody; and then the cage is uncovered, and ever after he can sing it in the*

*light. Thus God deals with his creatures. He has a song to teach us, and when we have learned it amid the deep shadows of affliction, we can sing it ever afterward.” Ellen White, Review & Herald, November 25, 1884 par. 3*

God is with you in the darkness!