

Dec. 27, 2015 *Have We Been 'Left Behind'?* based on Luke 2:41-52

"Home Alone" has become a Christmas classic about a boy left behind by his parents. It actually happened to Jesus! Why did the Evangelist Luke include this story?

- Only account of Jesus after infancy and before baptism by John
- Why not a more dignified or impressive story?
- It belongs to his 'growing up', both chronologically and religiously. Shows his spiritual maturity.

Have we made the inner journey from infancy to adulthood?

- Difference between 'trip' and 'pilgrimage'
- Trip to Germany to see sights, pilgrimage to Sweden to explore our ancestral origins
- Do we come to church as a 'trip', or as a pilgrimage; to see a performance, or to deepen and express our faith?
- God seeks to lead us into a deeper faith. We often resist with our own agenda. Can we open ourselves to God's prodding?

Was Jesus resisting his parents, or following God's lead? Have we missed a 'cue' or have we been left behind in terms of our faith? It's never too late to grow and deepen our inner spirits!