

It has always been deeply interesting to serious readers of the Bible to know more about Christ during the first thirty years of His life and the daily history at His home at Nazareth.

The Gospel narratives pass over the events with a strange silence except for one brief account in the Gospel of Luke.

After a festival in Jerusalem, Jesus stayed on without His parents' permission and without informing them of His intentions. The people who heard Him in the Temple were amazed at His wisdom, but Mary and Joseph were amazed at His "lack of consideration" for their feelings:

Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.

(Luke 2:48b)

These words of Mary to her Son imply an assumption that He was in the wrong, so both of them receive a gentle but obvious rebuke for their inability to grasp who Jesus was and why He acted as He did. He said to them:

Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

(Luke 2:49-50)

In other words, Jesus' parents should have understood from all they had been told through divine revelations, and what they had seen of Jesus' character so far, that He was acting in accordance to His Father's will.

The word *must* in the Greek implies a Godly requirement and Jesus uses the same word repeatedly throughout the Gospels to reflect the obligations imposed on Him by His Heavenly Mandate. Examples:

I *must* preach the Good News

The Son of Man *must* suffer many things

I *must* go on my way today and tomorrow

There would be so much to elaborate on with this passage of Scripture, but the main point is to show that this was only the beginning of a constant tension that the Lord was to experience between His duties towards His Heavenly Father and those of His fellow man.

But His Mission from the Father was to have first place, and it should be no different for any modern-day Disciple, regardless of who it may offend or inconvenience!