



Why Are You  
**Looking**  
For  
**Jesus?**

Luke 2:41-52



- Joseph, Mary, Jesus and brothers and sisters go to Jerusalem for Passover every year.
- Jesus is 12



- Parents leave to return to Nazareth, Jesus is not with them
- Jesus stayed in Jerusalem
- In the temple
  - sitting among teachers
    - listening
    - asking questions
    - amazed at his understanding and answers



- Parents return, searching for Jesus





- Finally find him in the temple.



- Why have you treated us so?
  - Searching in **great distress!**
    - 44: searching among relatives
    - 45: searching Jerusalem (3 days)
      - Where did they look for Jesus? Where do you find a 12 year old boy?



- Why were you looking for me?
  - Not the question of an impudent pre-teen.
  - He's their son ... but that's too obvious.



- Deeper question is not really understanding who their son is, what he would be doing.
  - Shepherds:
    - Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
    - Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.





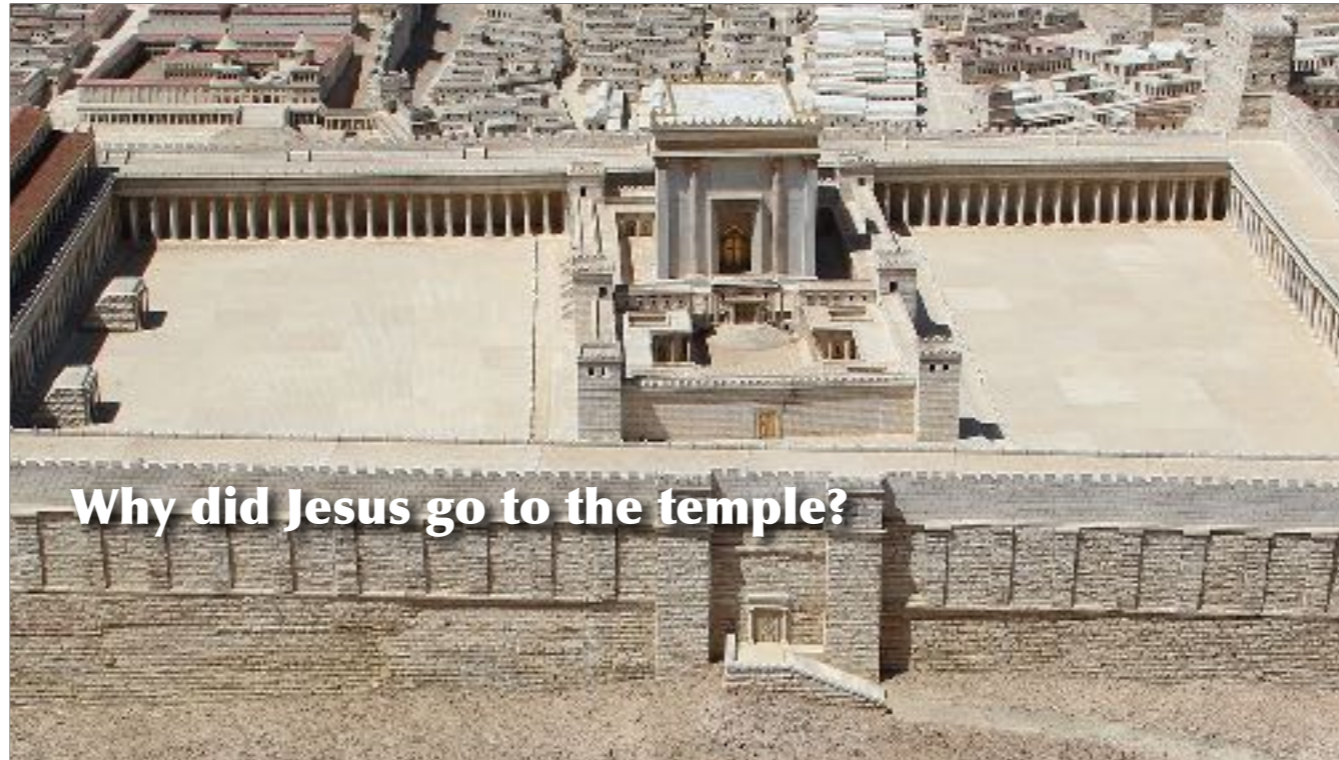
- Simeon
  - Luke 2:29-32 (ESV) 29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”
  - Luke 2:33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.



- Did you not know that I **must** be in **my Father's house**? (about my Father's business)
- They did not understand the saying

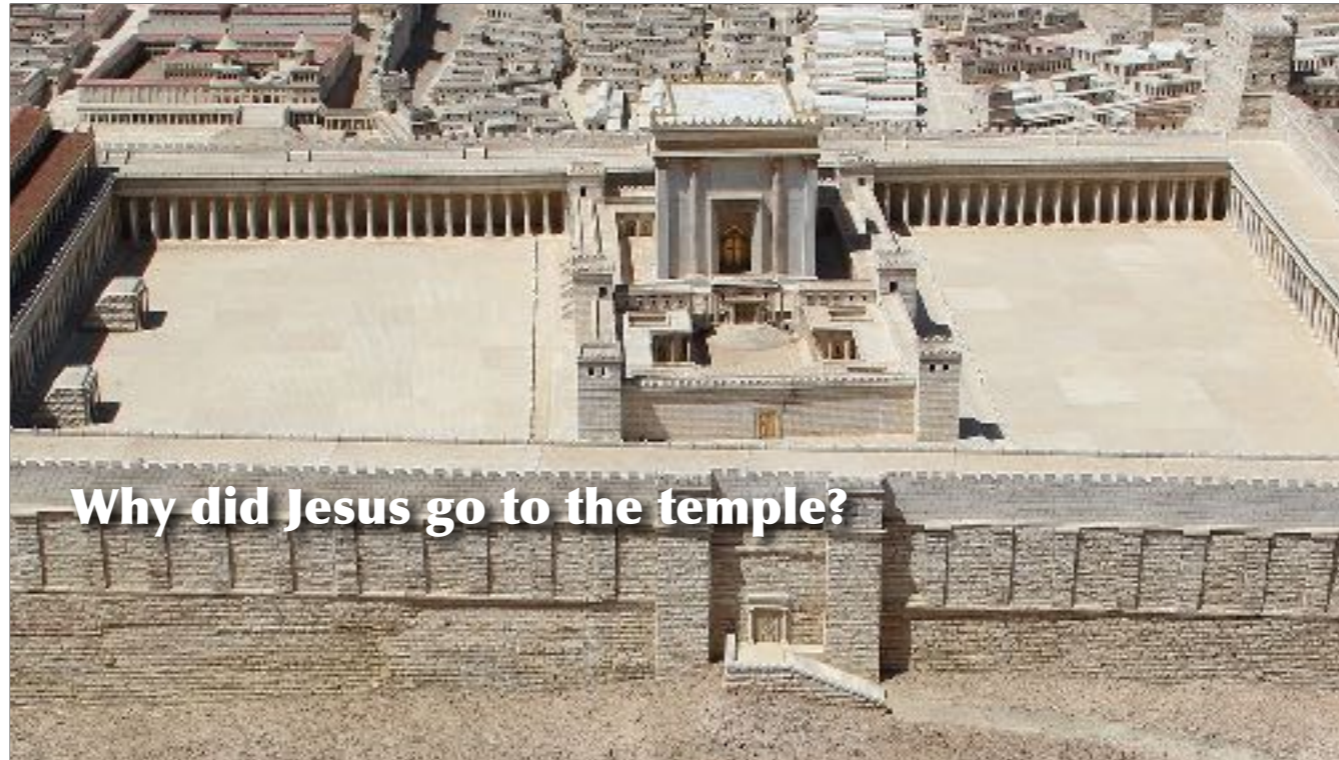


- Nazareth: submissive to them
- Mother treasured these things in her heart

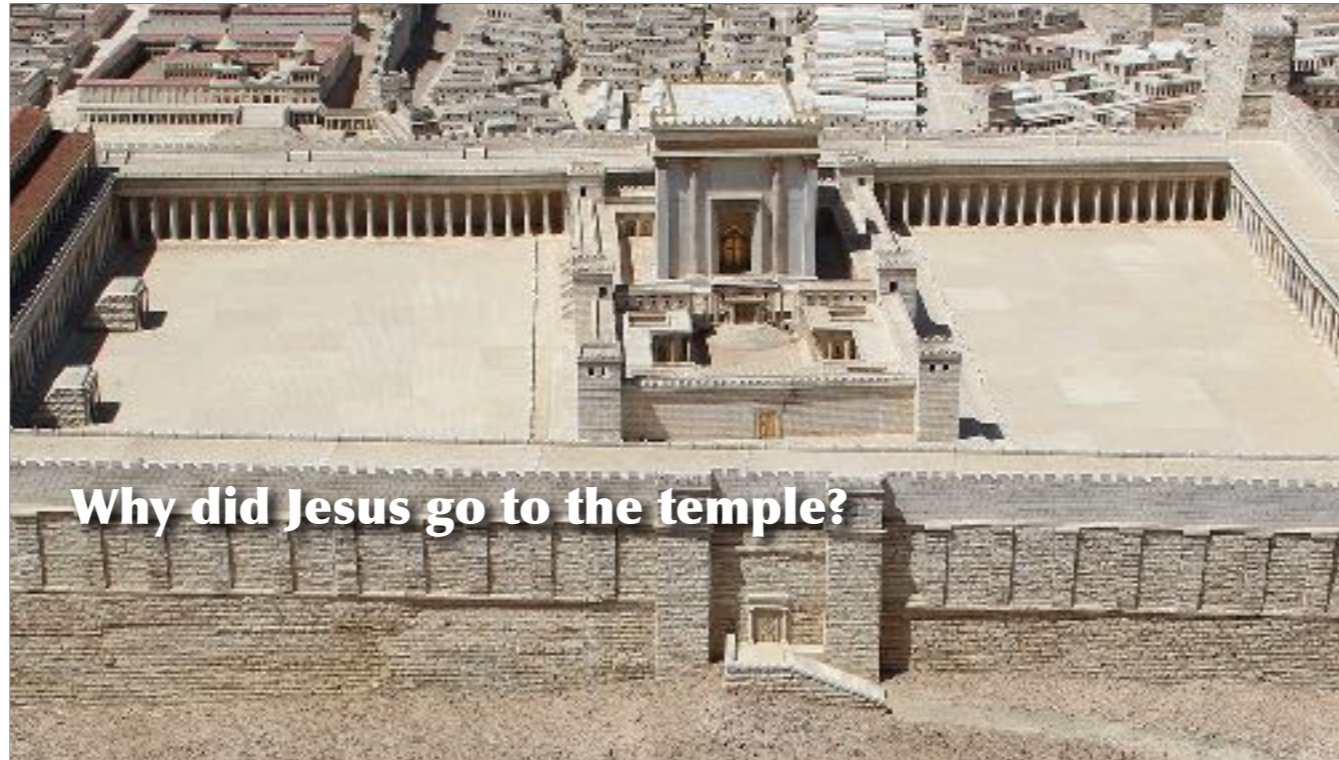


- Why did Jesus go to the temple?
  - Most 12 year old boys would go ... anywhere else.
- My Father's house
  - The temple was a place to meet with God



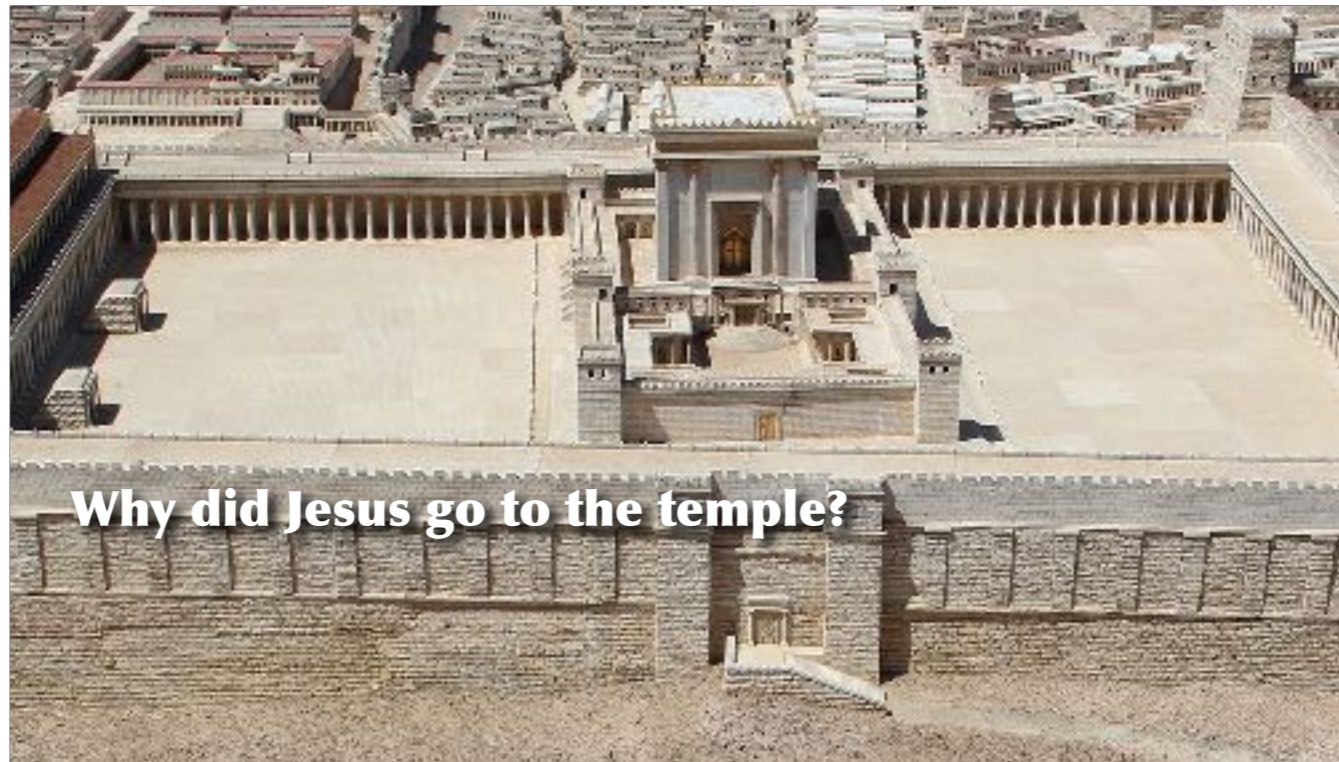


- But it was more than just “meeting God” to Jesus: my Father’s house!
  - It was going home.
  - Jesus didn’t go to the temple because he “had” to.
  - He wanted to be there: near his father and near godly people.
  - But it may be talking more about the importance of what is happening at the temple too
    - Worshiping our Father, Creator
      - Rejoicing, Praying, Singing
    - Sacrifices and Atonement: Forgiveness

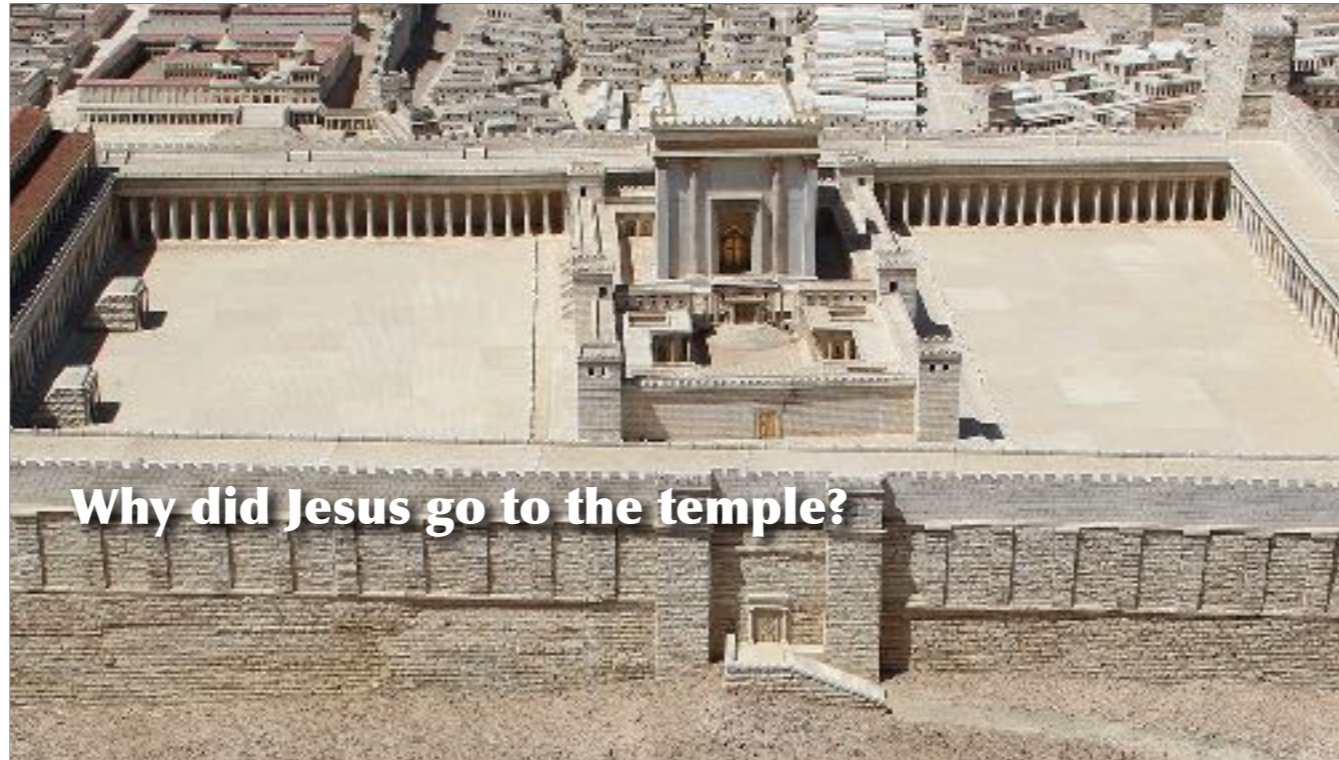


- We are the temple now .... family.
  - Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV) 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.





- Does it feel like a chore? a duty? a responsibility? a burden?
- Does being with each other feel like coming home?
- How can we help each other to find our assemblies as a place of welcome?
  - Worship more inclusive and more engaging for all of us?



- Jesus' age didn't matter ... they didn't dismiss him because he was too young.
  - Why do we sometimes "dismiss" each other
    - dismiss may be too harsh, but we sometimes just ignore each other
    - or we're just determined to move on to the next part of our day
    - or we're just tired
- Listening.
- Asking questions.
- Answers.





- Luke 11:9-10 (ESV) 9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.



- Where do you seek for Jesus?
  - Why do we look in the wrong places?
    - Mark 8:11-13 (ESV) 11 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. 12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” 13 And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.
  - Relatives
  - Traditions



- This is the struggle with seeking ... we often don't know where to look because there are so many options.
- And even when we look in the right place .... we might miss him.

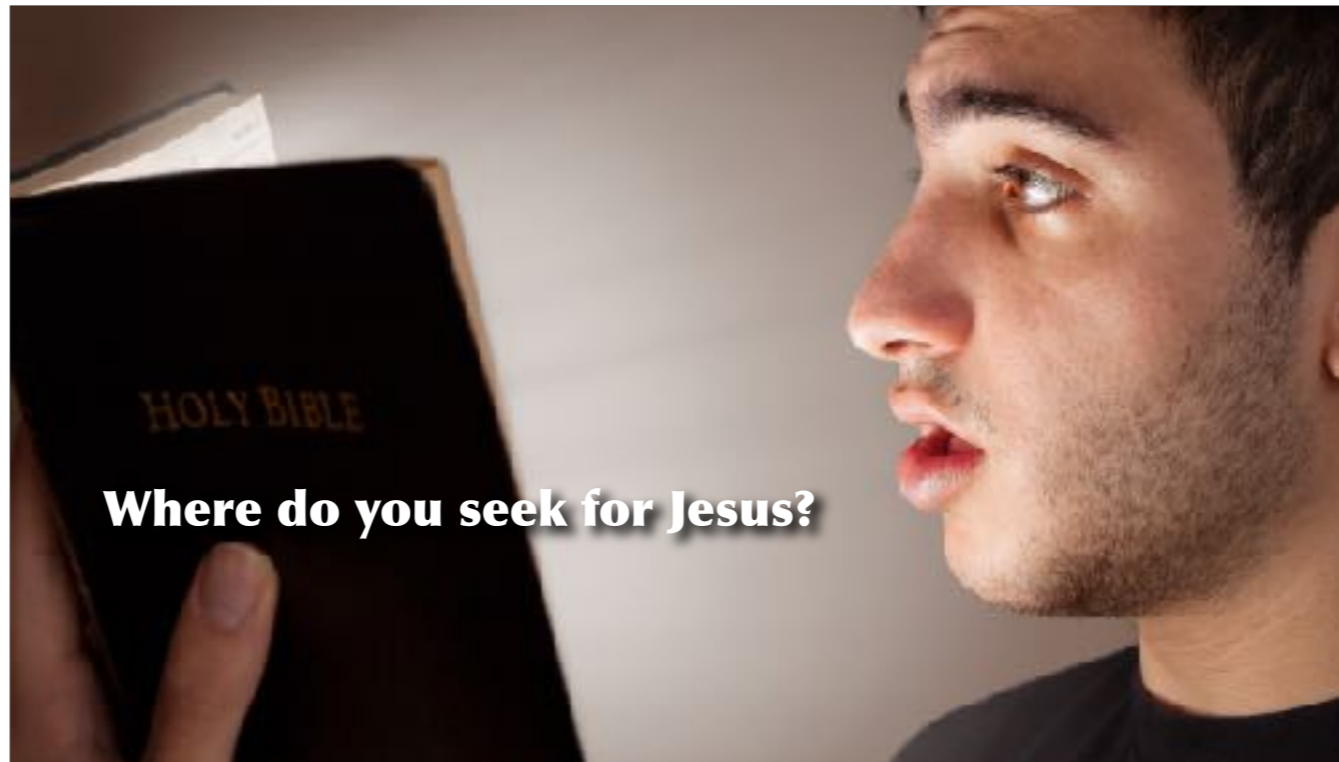


- Acts 17:26-28 (ESV) 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”





- Romans 1:19-20 (ESV) 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.



- Lystra: Acts 14:17 (ESV) 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”



- John 5:39-40 (ESV) 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.



- Jesus ask his parents: “Why were you looking for me?” (49)
  - They had searched with great distress (of course)
- Why are you seeking Jesus?
  - Why don't we seek him?
    - Some don't seek him because they don't know they need him.
    - Some because they misunderstand because of what they have heard other say.
    - Some don't really seek him because they think they know him.
  - Why don't we seek him with urgency?





- Wrong Reasons?

- John 6:1-2 (ESV) 1 After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the **signs** that he was doing on the sick.
- John 6:14-15 (ESV) 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and **take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.



- John 6:24 (ESV) 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, **seeking Jesus**.
- John 6:26-27 (ESV) 26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but **because you ate your fill of the loaves**.  
27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."



- The food that perishes
  - Essentially selfish, worldly, reasons
  - What can Jesus do for me: physically heal, feed, lead
    - Power



- The food that endures to eternal life
  - John 6:50-51 (ESV) 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 **I am the living bread that came down from heaven.** If anyone eats of this bread, **he will live forever.** And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”





- John 6:54 (ESV) 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
- John 6:58 (ESV) 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. **Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.**”



- Thinking carefully ... why are you seeking Jesus?
  - Perhaps at the start or even now it's not quite as noble as "eternal life"
  - Signs, food, king: it's okay ...



- Why are you seeking Jesus today?
  - Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**



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## Why Are You Looking for Jesus?

Luke 2:41-52

Synopsis: When Jesus stayed in the temple at 12 years old, his parents searched for him. Why did a twelve year old seek out the teachers in the temple? Where should we search for Jesus, and why are you seeking him?

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**