

## The Twelve-Year-Old Jesus in the Temple

*Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives (2012)*

**Read** Luke 2.41-52

### **1. What is real Christian Freedom?**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year.... (Luke 2.41)

#### **Questions:**

What does this say about their religious attitude? (cf. Exodus 23.17; 34.23f; Deu 16:16f)

Did Jesus have to go to Jerusalem with his parents?

Was Jesus a radical? Liberal? Revolutionary?

What is freedom?

### **2. Jesus was lost**

#### **Questions:**

What does it mean that Jesus was found ‘after three days’? (Luke 2.46)

This was the beginning of Mary’s heart being pierced. (Luke 2.35).

And that ended, finally, also in three days of ‘missing Jesus’.

### **3. Jesus talking in the Temple**

#### **Questions:**

What was Jesus doing in the Temple?

**Discuss** the meaning of ‘must’ in ‘I must be in my Father’s house’.  
(Luke 2.49, and compare with Mark 8.31)

### **4. Joseph and Mary**

#### **Question:**

Was it reasonable for his parents to be upset? (Luke 2.48-50)

### **5. He grew**

#### **Question:**

Read Luke 2.51-52 and discuss: How could the Son of God grow in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man?

