

## Series: Gospel Of Luke

**Sunday, January 11.** Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at [gardiner.church/devotions](http://gardiner.church/devotions)

### 1. L ..... JESUS: WHEN GOD FEELS ABSENT

(Luke 2:43-45; see also Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 55:6-7; Psalm 131:2)

- Mary and Joseph traveled a full day before realizing Jesus wasn't with them. They then searched for three days before finding Him. But Jesus wasn't lost—He knew where He was. They were the ones searching. This mirrors our experience when God feels absent. He's where He's always been; we just can't feel Him. Why does God feel absent? It may be because of Distractions, Sin or even Spiritual Growth. Whatever the reason, Isaiah 55:6-7 promises: when we seek Him, we'll find Him.
- What might be creating distance between you and God currently—distractions, sin, or spiritual growth?

**NOTES:** .....

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### 2. M ..... JESUS: WHEN GOD'S WAYS WOUND US

(Luke 2:48-50)

- Mary's question is raw: "Son, why have you treated us like this?" There's pain, confusion, maybe anger. Jesus responds: "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Divine necessity. From heaven's perspective, Jesus was exactly where He needed to be. From Mary's perspective, three days of agony. Both are true. God's purposes and our pain can coexist. He may be working purposes we can't see—preparation or redemption requiring this particular path. We're not wrong to hurt, but hurt doesn't mean He's wrong.
- Bring your honest, painful questions to God. His purposes may cause pain, but He's working something deeper that will one day be redeemed.

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**3. T ..... JESUS: WHEN MYSTERY MUST BE ENOUGH**

(Luke 2:50-51; see also 1 Corinthians 13:12)

- Verse 50 says, "They did not understand." Though the mystery remained, verse 51 goes on to say, "His mother treasured all these things in her heart." She treasured what she didn't understand, holding it close, trusting clarity would come. This is faith—not having answers, but treasuring Jesus anyway. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:12: *"Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."* You are fully known by God. One day everything will be clear and redeemed.
- Treasure Jesus in the mystery. We see dimly now, but one day we'll see clearly. Until then, keep seeking, stay faithful and persevere.
- What can you treasure now, even without understanding?

**NOTES:** .....

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**Application For This Week:** Choose one thing to "treasure" about God through a verse, a moment in worship, a prayer, or meditating on an aspect of God's character. Hold it close even if mystery remains. Let Mary's example teach you that faith holds tension: confusion and trust, pain and praise, questions and worship.

**Prayer:** "Lord, when I don't understand Your ways, I will still treasure Your presence. Give me a heart that trusts not because I see the path, but because I know You. Like Mary, may I treasure these mysteries in my heart, waiting for the day when all things will become clear. Amen."

**Verse To Meditate On This Week:** *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. – 1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV)*

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