



THAT'S WHAT HE SAID

(THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH OF JESUS)

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KID?

Did you ever get lost when you were little? For the first few minutes, you're completely unaware of the fact that you're lost, right? For the next few minutes, you may feel alive with a sense of freedom and adventure. But eventually, you become fearful and nervous. You've been abandoned. You need to fend for yourself. And adults are all so BIG!

Jesus isn't like us, y'all. He got left behind in Jerusalem at the young age of twelve and didn't feel nervous at all. In fact, He felt completely at home in the temple - in His Father's house.

When Jesus' parents finally found him, the interaction went something like this:

Mary: JESUS, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

Jesus: Here. Obviously. Didn't you know I'd be in my Dad's house?

Joseph: I don't live here, kid.

Mary: What on earth are babbling on about? We're going home.

Like Mary and Joseph, we often don't understand God's answers. We don't grasp His ways. We don't see what He sees or know what He knows. But you know what we can trust? We can trust that His answers, however vague or confusing in the moment, are good, true, *best*, and gracious.

IN THE BIBLE.

Luke 2:41-50

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. 42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. 43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, 44 because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. 46 Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

49 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they didn't understand what he meant.

1 John 4: 14-16

14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

Romans 11:33

33 Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

QUESTIONS.

1. What sticks out to you in this story/these verses?
2. Have you ever had a response from God that didn't make sense? What was it?
3. What do you do when God's answers don't make sense? What do you do when things God says in the Bible don't make sense?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?