**Supposition or Certainty?**

*Luke 2:41-50*

**Introduction**

1. Mary and Joseph lose Jesus – **Luke 2:41-50**
   1. **(v. 44)** – They supposed He was in the company but did not find Him.
   2. **(v. 49)** – They found Him in the temple, and it seemed Jesus thought they should have known such.
   3. Regardless of the details not given, the parents of Jesus made a supposition that Jesus was with them but did not investigate to find certainty.
2. Supposition – an uncertain belief (New Oxford American Dictionary)
3. Too many, like Mary and Joseph, suppose Jesus is with them, yet cannot possibly know for certainty because they haven’t done the investigation necessary.
4. The presence of Jesus, i.e. fellowship with Him is of too much importance to settle for a supposition. It is imperative that each one know for certainty that Jesus is with them, and they are with Jesus.
5. Self-Responsibility
6. Each Individual is Accountable for Himself
   1. Sin and righteousness on the individual – **Ezekiel 18:19-20**
      1. **Romans 5:12-14** – death spread to all on account of each of their own sins.
      2. Even not after the likeness of the transgression of Adam – indicative of their own personal guilt.
   2. Each is accountable for himself before the judge – **Romans 14:4, 8-12**
      1. Principles established for the correct assessment of brethren in the exercise of liberties amongst differences.
      2. Fundamental truth of each individual standing or falling before God in judgment alone to rid the church of unwarranted judgments in the realm of liberty.
   3. Each must bear his own load – **Galatians 6:1-5**
      1. **(v. 2)** – “burdens” – *baros;* weight (Strong)
      2. **(v. 5)** – “load” – *phortion*; an invoice (as part of freight), i.e. (figuratively) a task or service. (Strong)
         1. Especially of a personal task or responsibility that on the one charged with it can carry out.
7. It is not that anyone lives in a vacuum and is only to be concerned with themselves. However, ultimately, whether one is blameless at judgment or not is a matter left solely to him.
8. The Folly of Supposition
9. The value of the soul determines that any supposition about its eternal destiny is foolish – **Mark 8:36-37**
10. Supposition leaves room for failure – **Matthew 7:21-23** – they had supposed they did what was right, but it was impossible that they were certain, for Jesus calls them workers of lawlessness.
    1. **(vv. 24-27)** – the certainty is found in hearing His words and doing them.
    2. **Luke 6:48** – dug deep and laid foundation on the rock.
       1. This detail implies he did not suppose he was building on the foundation.
       2. He made certain, through his own effort, that he had found the rock.
11. Supposition is a form of negligence, and negligence leads to apostasy – **Hebrews 2:1-3**
12. God does not want us to suppose, but to make certain of our standing with Him – **2 Peter 1:10-11**
13. God offers us the ability to know with certainty – **1 John 5:13**
14. **Surely, if our soul is of value to us, and we truly want to get to heaven then we will not settle with a supposition but will pursue the certainty God offers us.**
15. The Need for Certainty
16. Self-Examination
    1. **2 Corinthians 13:5** – the call to self-examination.
       1. Corinthians being influenced by false teachers who opposed Paul and his gospel.
          1. They were hung up on Paul proving himself as a true apostle – **2 Corinthians 12:12; 13:2-3**
          2. Paul turns it on them – they were the ones that needed to prove whether they were right with God – THEY HAD DEPARTED, NOT PAUL.
       2. NOTE: ***“in the faith”*** and ***“Jesus Christ is in you”*** are synonymous.
          1. I.e. the OBJECT of faith – the gospel.
          2. Christ dwells in us through His word – **John 14:23**
       3. Test – *dokimazō* – to test, examine, prove, scrutinise (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals (THAYER)
          1. **1 Peter 1:7** – genuineness of faith tested by fire.
          2. Here, tested by self before the fire of trial/tribulation.
    2. Such a test requires honesty – **1 John 3:18-21**
       1. **(vv. 18-19)** – our hearts (conscience) can be assured by following this standard.
       2. **(v. 20)** – our heart condemns us if we aren’t following this standard, AND GOD KNOWS.
       3. **(v. 21)** – our heart does not condemn us if we are following the standard, and we can have confidence.
       4. Too often, there are those who know they aren’t doing right before God but seek to convince themselves otherwise – BUT GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS.
       5. HONESTY WITH SELF IS THE BEST POLICY – DO YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE BEFORE GOD BASED ON HIS STANDARD, OR NOT?
    3. Such a test requires the right standard:
       1. Not self or others – **1 Corinthians 4:3-5; 2 Corinthians 10:12**
       2. Not a false standard – **Jeremiah 6:14-17; Isaiah 5:20**
       3. Only the gospel will do – **Romans 2:16; John 6:66-69; 12:48**
17. Repentance if Necessary
    1. Such examination is pointless if we are not willing to rectify any wrongs we see – **James 1:22-25** – we must be doers of the word.
    2. **1 John 5:13** – John wrote that his readers might have confidence in their standing with God.
       1. However, at the beginning of the epistle he made clear that such confidence comes, in part, from our willingness to make things right with God.
       2. **1 John 1:8-10** – we must confess our sins.
          1. **(v. 8)** – not refusing to acknowledge the damage sin has caused in our soul.
          2. **(v. 10)** – not refusing to acknowledge that what we have done is indeed sin.
          3. **(v. 9)** – rather, confessing our sins.
       3. **1 John 2:1-2** – God has granted us confidence in that, while we are to refrain from sin, the provision for sin is still available in Christ.
       4. Certainty of our standing with God is not found in ignoring our sins – **1 John 5:16-17** – God will not forgive sin leading to death (i.e. sin that is not repented of).
    3. Self-examination is required by God that we might be brought to godly sorrow if we see that “indeed you are disqualified” – **2 Corinthians 7:10-11** – NOTE THE INTENSE CHANGE AND ACTION TAKEN TO SHOW REPENTANCE.
    4. If we repent of our sins, and then by God’s forgiveness are restored to His favor, then we can be CERTAIN that we are with Jesus, and He with us.

**Conclusion**

1. We must not make the mistake of Jesus’ parents in supposing that He is with us, and we are with Him.
2. We must make certain that we are in fellowship with Jesus.
3. Our souls are of too much value to make suppositions, especially when God has provided certainty.