

DON'T LEAVE HIM THERE

Text: Luke 2:41-45

Introduction:

1. When Jesus was 12 years old, His parents left Him behind in Jerusalem.
2. Often, in our thoughts, choices, and actions, we leave Jesus behind by not including Him.
3. This is also true in our understanding of the Christ, giving us an incomplete or faulty picture of Him.
4. Don't Leave Him There...

I. In the Manger (Luke 2:6-20)

- A. We thrill at the story of Jesus' birth.
- B. Yet, many want to see Jesus only as an infant – harmless and without judgment.
 1. What about Jesus the Transfigured (Luke 9:28-35)?
 2. What about Jesus the Preacher (Matt. 23:13-22)?
 3. What about Jesus the Zealous (John 2:13-17)?
 4. What about Jesus the Judge (John 12:48; 2 Cor. 5:10)?
- G. We must not leave Him in the manger!

II. In the Garden (Luke 22:39-44)

- A. In Gethsemane, the humanity of Jesus is fully displayed.
- B. He prayed, "Remove this cup from me."
 1. Jesus did not want to endure the shame nor the pain of the cross.
 2. He experienced real, genuine, human emotions.
- C. Many want to see Jesus only as a man – understanding and tolerant.
- D. Yet, Jesus also prayed, "Not my will, but thine, be done."
 1. Even in His humanity, Jesus sought and submitted to the will of God!
 2. In His agony, He remained true to His Father.
- E. We must not leave Him in the garden!

III. In the Tomb (Luke 24:1-8)

- A. On the cross, Jesus suffered and died for the sins of the world (Isa. 53).
- B. Upon His death, His body was placed in a tomb (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
- C. From all outward appearances, it seemed that Jesus had been defeated.
- D. Yet, early on the first day of the week, Jesus arose from the grave in victory!
- E. We must not leave Him in the tomb!

IV. In Heaven (Luke 24:50-53)

- A. Following His resurrection, Jesus ascended to the Father in Heaven.
- B. This demonstrated His power and authority, allowing Him to reign as King.
- C. Yet, He has promised to return to reward His followers with victory in Heaven (John 14:1-6; 1 Thes. 4:16-18; 1 John 3:1-3).
- D. We must not leave Him in Heaven!

- V. In the Assembly (Luke 22:14-18)
- A. Jesus is present with the church when we assemble to worship.
 - B. Yet, we must remember that He is with His people at all times.
 - C. Also, our duty is to take Him and His Gospel to the world.
 - D. We must not leave Him in the assembly!