

Word of God Incarnate in a 12 Year Old **St. Joseph**, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, March 20, 2017 8:15 AM 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;
Lk 2:41-51a (He will have to learn how to empathize, but at the same time he will always be able to teach and be a source of wisdom and a point of contact with the sublime.)

“Son, why have you done this to us?”

This story of Jesus in the Temple is a very remarkable story telling us about the very nature of the incarnation, the incarnation of the Word of God into human nature. Jesus was **simultaneously a boy of 12 years old** with all the fundamental consideration and sensitivities of any boy of 12 years old, i.e., he didn't have any, but also **at the very same time he was the Word of God incarnate** capable of sitting in the Temple with teachers of the Law and astounding them both with his questions and his answers. He knew, not something, but someone that they didn't. **They knew the Law; he knew the Lawgiver. And he had this sense of the Temple as his Father's house.** He will use that expression at another time, as you may remember, when he cleans out all the animals. He says, “My Father's house is to be a house of prayer.” So he has this sense that is utterly unique, and yet he is still incarnate in a teenage body, mind, emotional nature. And so this is the way in which **he will grow and develop.** He will have to mature. He will have to grow. **He will have to learn how to empathize, but at the same time he will always be able to teach and be a source of wisdom and a point of contact with the sublime.**

Meanwhile we could say something about Mary and Joseph. **Mary says, “Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”** Well, that's putting it mildly. When parents lose a child, can't find a child, they panic. She really means your father and I have been **panicking** for three days. But this is also part of their role. Just as God did not want Jesus to be exempt from the pains and the tribulations and the trials of life, he didn't want Mary and Joseph to be spared either, so that **the whole family endures all the things that people have to endure to get through life.** Why? Because **he is the light and it is through the light that we can go through the darkness and having gone through the darkness enter into the life which God promises.** So this too is all part of the fabric of the gospel story: **Mary and Joseph burdened with a Son who could be inconsiderate and completely out of touch, causing completely useless pain and anxiety.** That's all part of the mix. It's all what God has wanted to be part of and chose to be part of in the mystery of the Incarnation.