

# GAME CHANGER

*Left Behind*     Tom Ellsworth     Luke 2:41-52     December 21, 2014

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. **Luke 2:41-50 (NIV)**

## **Don't Leave Behind Words of Good News**

The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea. **Luke 4:42-44 (NIV)**

So on the gloomy days, when life isn't easy, try the following:

- Celebrate as much as you can.
- Smile as much as you can
- Be as positive as you can

## **Don't Leave Behind Priorities that Matter**

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. **Luke 2:51-52 (NIV)**

Here we are at the first of the year and this would make for a good philosophical approach to the next 12 months: **grow in wisdom, and in favor with God and others.**

- Pray for and grow in wisdom
  - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. . **James 1:5-8 (NIV)**
- Pray for and grow in favor with God.
- Pray for and grow in favor with others.