



TEACHER IN THE TEMPLE

BY

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ACT 1

(Joseph is sitting deep in thought – Mary walks in but doesn't say anything)

JOSEPH: How long have you been standing there?

MARY: Not long...

JOSEPH: Why didn't you say something?

MARY: I didn't want to disturb you....

JOSEPH: Disturb me?

MARY:I could see you were deep in thought....

(Joseph sighs)

MARY:Where were you? (pause) The same place?

(Joseph nods his head)

MARY: Why, Joseph? Why do you keep thinking that way?

JOSEPH:It's not what I think....it's how I feel.....

MARY:And you still have those doubts?

JOSEPH:Yes, I do.....

MARY:But we've talked about this...

JOSEPH:I know we have...and I have tried really hard to accept what the Angel told me but I can't help thinking, "Am I really up to this"?...

MARY:Of course you are....

JOSEPH:Am I? But I'm just an ordinary man...what makes me worthy to be the father of Jesus?...

MARY:Not what but who...

JOSEPH:Who?

MARY:God! (pause) God sent his Angel to tell you...

JOSEPH:And she told me I was to be the father of a boy who would save people from their sins....

MARY:What a privilege!

JOSEPH:What a responsibility....you realise who we are talking about....

MARY:Of course I do....the Messiah!

JOSEPH:And that still doesn't worry you?

MARY:Not any more....it did when I was first told...but not now...

JOSEPH:And that was years ago....

MARY:Exactly....so why are you still worried? Do you really think God would have sent his Angel if he had doubts about you?

JOSEPH:Probably not....

MARY:Don't you think God would have chosen someone else?

JOSEPH:Like Andrew?....

MARY:I wish he wouldn't say those things....

JOSEPH:You've noticed it too?

(Mary nods)

JOSEPH:It's as though he holds it against me....

MARY:There must be more to it than that....Have you thought of asking him?

(Joseph shakes his head)

MARY:But Carmel's not like that....she not envious...She's told me she's spoken to Andrew but she can't get him to change his mind.....

JOSEPH:It's the hardest thing to do....

MARY:What is?

JOSEPH:To change how a person feels about something...

MARY:Hard...but not impossible....

JOSEPH:Are they coming with us to Jerusalem?

MARY:I expect so....what about Mark?

JOSEPH:I haven't asked him....He might not want to...

MARY:He might find it too hard to go without Rachel...

JOSEPH:I think everything now is a struggle for him...you can see he is lost without her...

MARY:It's so sad...they were so devoted to one another....

JOSEPH:And yet they didn't have any children....

(Mary shakes her head)...

MARY:Which makes me think...where's Jesus?

JOSEPHHe should be finishing off the table we have been making...

MARY:You left him to do that on his own?...

(Joseph nods)

MARY:But he's only twelve!!

JOSEPH:He'll be fine...

MARY:Are you sure?

JOSEPH:You wait until you see it.....

MARY:When will that be?

(Jesus enters)

JESUS:Anytime you like...

MARY:Hello dear.....

JOSEPH:Have you've finished it?

(Jesus nods)

JOSEPH:Just in time...

JESUS:For what?

JOSEPH:We are leaving tomorrow for Jerusalem....

JESUS:To observe the Feast of the Passover...I'm really looking forward to it..

MARY:So what are we waiting for?

JOSEPH: You need to speak to Carmel, don't you?... and I need to talk to Mark....

MARY: (interrupts) Joseph! I don't mean that! (pause) I'm asking what are we waiting for, before we go and see the table.

JOSEPH: Oh, I see, I thought you meant....

(Mary shakes her head)

JOSEPH: Right Son, why don't you lead the way?

ACT 2

ANDREW:Have you packed yet?

CARMEL:Not yet...

ANDREW:Aren't we going tomorrow?

CARMEL:Don't worry, I haven't forgotten....I'll do it later....

ANDREW:And will Mary and Joseph be travelling with us...

CARMEL:I expect so....

ANDREW:Well, aren't we the privileged ones?...

CARMEL:Don't start that again, Andrew.....

ANDREW:Start what?

CARMEL:Saying those things about Joseph...

ANDREW:But I'm not saying anything he would disagree with...

CARMEL:Have you told him what you think?

ANDREW:I don't need to....he knows he's not up to being the father of the Messiah...and so do I..

CARMEL:But he's very devout and always tries to do the right thing

ANDREW:I'm not saying he doesn't....

CARMEL:What are you saying?

ANDREW:If you haven't got any confidence in yourself, how are you going to succeed? He can be this and he can be that but he will always be asking questions of himself....

CARMEL:But are you surprised he has doubts?

ANDREW:Of course not....the responsibility he has been given is huge...

CARMEL:I'm sure Mary has re-assured him...

ANDREW:But she hasn't changed the way he feels....

CARMEL:You haven't helped, Andrew....

ANDREW:How can I? Do you think I should lie to him? Tell him, “Everything will be fine....don’t worry if you make mistakes... you’re only raising the Son of God!!”.....

CARMEL:But the last thing Joseph wants to hear is anyone agreeing with him...

ANDREW:Anyway, there could be another reason for the way he feels....

CARMEL:Really?

(Andrew nods)

CARMEL:What is it?

ANDREW:Jesus is not his....he is not the real father... is he?

CARMEL:Do you think that makes a difference to Joseph?

ANDREW:It might do...

CARMEL:But he knew that from the day he was born....even before he was born...don’t you remember what Joseph told us?

ANDREW:Of course I do...

CARMEL:An angel appeared in a dream and told him that what had been conceived in Mary is from the Holy Spirit...

ANDREW:I’d never heard anything like that before....

CARMEL:And I’m sure we’ll never hear anything like that again...

...

ANDREW:I just feel sorry for him really...he didn’t have a choice, did he?

CARMEL:Are you saying God made the wrong choice?...

ANDREW:Who am I say to that?

CARMEL:Well, then...

ANDREW:But there have been times when something has happened and I’ve thought to myself, “Was that really God’s will?”

CARMEL:Are you thinking of Rachel?

(Andrew nods)

CARMEL:Poor Mark....

ANDREW:He must be devastated...

CARMEL:I'm surprised they didn't have any children....they were so much in love...

ANDREW:Maybe they didn't want the challenge....

CARMEL:Is that how you think of Anna?

ANDREW:I was being...realistic....

CARMEL:How can you say that about your own daughter?

ANDREW:She's not the easiest child in the world, is she?

CARMEL:She does have her moments.....

ANDREW:I mean, she's not like Jesus...

CARMEL:Here we go again!

ANDREW:I'm sure he doesn't answer back to his parents!!....

CARMEL:We don't know for sure....

ANDREW:Tell me, has Mary ever said to you, "You wouldn't believe what Jesus said to me!!".....

CARMEL:I can't remember her saying that (pause)...she always say how good he is...

ANDREW:And because of that, their lives are made so much easier...It would make such a difference if Anna did what she was told! Sometimes I have to ask her five times to do something...

(Anna enters)

ANNA:Mother....I'm bored!!

CARMEL:Haven't you got any friends you can play with?

ANNA:They had to go home...

CARMEL:Won't you see them later?

ANNA:I don't know...

CARMEL:I'm going to start preparing our meal...would you like to help me?

ANNA: Why can't Father?

CARMEL: He's probably busy doing something else...

ANDREW: Don't you want to help your Mother?

ANNA: Don't you?

ANDREW: I have to go round and see Joseph...

CARMEL: Don't be long, Andrew, we will be eating soon.....and why are you going round?

ANNA: I thought you didn't like him...

ANDREW: Why do you say that?

ANNA: I heard you telling Mother....

ANDREW: Did you?

ANNA: You said he shouldn't be the father of Jesus...

ANDREW: Have you told Jesus I said that?

ANNA: I don't know....

ANDREW: You don't know? Can't you remember?!!

CARMEL: Andrew, what does it matter? Why are you so worried?

ANDREW: Jesus is different from us, isn't he?...I don't want to get in the bad books of the Messiah...

ANNA: What's a Messiah?

ANDREW: It's another name for a King....

ANNA: Is Jesus a King? (pause) He's too young to be a King....he's only twelve!!

ANDREW: He's not a King now but he will be when he's older....

CARMEL: Hasn't he told you, Anna?

(Anna shakes his head)

CARMEL: Why don't you ask him, next time you see him?

ANNA:I could go round now with you, Father.....

CARMEL:Andrew, you still haven't said why you are going round...

ANDREW:I'm just going to make sure they are coming with us tomorrow....we won't be long....let's go, Anna.....

ACT 3

MARK: You want to know how I'm feeling? Do you really want to know?

JOSEPH: If I didn't, I wouldn't have asked you.....

MARK: I'm like a shell....everything of me is on the outside...nothing is inside...I'm empty...

JOSEPH: Your life has been turned upside down...

MARK: But why? I keep asking myself, why? Why did this have to happen?..

JOSEPH: I can't answer that...

MARK: But your Son could, couldn't he? He is the Messiah, the Son of God...that's what you told me...

JOSEPH: I don't know what he will say, Mark...he's only twelve...

MARK: He will say it is God's will...I know he will....but how can it be, Joseph? How can it be? (pause)
Were we doing something very wrong? Something that, in the eyes of God had to.... end...

JOSEPH: You and Rachel were very devout...

MARK: I remember my life before I met Rachel....how I used to pray that I would find real love...someone that would love me the way I would love them...

JOSEPH: And you did...

MARK: Eventually....but when I did I thought I had been blessed...

JOSEPH: She must have thought so too...

MARK: And then I hoped everyone would have in their life what I had....

JOSEPH: I do, Mark...I have been blessed too

MARK: But you still have it, Joseph...I don't...mine has been taken away...and what am I left with? A gaping hole in my heart....a huge void in my life....

JOSEPH: Of course you have...this has left you devastated...at times you must feel very angry and at times you must be feel very sad... ,I can only imagine what you are going through...

MARK: People will imagine but unless it has happened to them too, they won't really know how I feel....

JOSEPH: They probably don't know what else they can say...

MARK: There's nothing you can say...

JOSEPH: I am always here to listen...

MARK: I know you are....

JOSEPH: I wish I could do something more to help....

MARK: Can you bring Rachel back? Can you bring her back into my life?

(Joseph shakes his head)

MARK: Then you can't help...

JOSEPH: Have you been out at all?

(Mark shakes his head).

MARK: A couple of times...but not during the day...I don't want to meet anyone I know...

JOSEPH: I understand

MARK: I'm just not ready to talk about Rachel...I would find it too hard to...

JOSEPH: Do you think if you went away it would help?

MARK: Went away? Where to?

JOSEPH: Jerusalem...

MARK: Jerusalem? (pause) It's the Feast of the Passover, isn't it? Rachel and I really enjoyed going last year...

JOSEPH: It will be a change from staying home all day...you could go for walks and you wouldn't meet anyone you know. You could go out on your own...or I could come with you.....

MARK: I don't know, Joseph....I don't know if I would be able to cope with...

(Jesus enters)

JOSEPH: Hello Son.....

JESUS:I didn't mean to interrupt you...

MARK:You haven't Jesus...we were just talking about the Passover...

JESUS:Are you coming, Mark? It was be so good if you did...

MARK:I don't know...I don't think I'd be good company...

JESUS:You were last year...

MARK:But that's in the past...

JESUS:That's where you think Rachel is, isn't it?

MARK:Yes, of course she is....

JESUS:But she's not...

MARK:What do you mean she's not?

JESUS:She is now in the future...

MARK:Is she?

JESUS:She has died and she is now in heaven with God....

MARK:But what does that mean to me?

JESUS:It means you have to stop seeing her "dead in the past" and start seeing her "alive in heaven".

MARK:I never had that thought...

JESUS:You will see her again, Mark (pause). But, for now, make the most of your life here until God calls you.

MARK:I'll try...

JESUS:Rachel could not be in a better place...believe me.

ACT 4

FESTUS: So you've come from Nazareth?

ANDREW: We come every year with our daughter....

ELIZABETH: That must be a long journey...how long does it take you to get here?

ANDREW: The best part of three days....but we don't mind...

CARMEL: We all enjoy coming here for the Feast of the Passover....

ELIZABETH: Did you say you came with your daughter?

CARMEL: She's with friends of ours....we've all travelled together...

ANDREW: How long have you lived here in Jerusalem?

ELIZABETH: Too long....I wanted to move away...

ANDREW: What made you stay?

ELIZABETH: Festus couldn't leave....

FESTUS: I am a Teacher... I have been for many years....I am asked many questions about the Scriptures...they need to hear my answers...

ANDREW: Everyone is looking for answers....

FESTUS: They can all be found in the Scriptures...

ANDREW: I'm sure they can...it's having time to read them...

FESTUS: It's not about having time...it's about making time...

CARMEL: When you have a young child, it is very difficult to do that...

FESTUS: We didn't find that with our Son...

CARMEL: Every child is different....

FESTUS: When we had our Son, we knew how important it was for him to be part of our lives and not for us to be part of his...

ANDREW: Does he go with you to the Temple, Festus?

ELIZABETH: No...he moved away....Festus hoped he would be a Teacher too....

FESTUS:(Disdainfully) And not a Farmer!!

CARMEL:But if that's what he wanted to do...

ELIZABETH:We couldn't stand in his way...

CARMEL:And that will happen when Anna is older... I remember my Mother telling me about the bow and the arrow....

FESTUS:The what?

CARMEL:When you bring up a child, it's like holding a bow and you always try to aim it straight and true. And when the child grows up, the time comes when you have to release the bow and let the arrow go...

ANDREW:So you don't see much of your Son?

(Elizabeth shakes her head)

ELIZABETHI don't see much of Festus, either, during the day...

FESTUS:I am in the Temple doing God's work...

CARMEL:Are you? What makes you so sure?

FESTUS:So many people come and listen to me....I believe it is God who is sending them to the Temple....

CARMEL:You must feel privileged....

FESTUS;Of course...but I believe God rewards those who are devout and obedient to him.....anyway, I have to go now...

ANDREW:Perhaps we will see you again before we return home...

ELIZABETH:Why don't you share our evening meal?

ANDREW:That is very kind of you....

CARMEL:What about Joseph and Mary?

ANDREW:They won't mind...I'm sure they will find somewhere to eat...

CARMEL:If you think so...

ANDREW:We didn't always eat with them last year...don't you remember?

FESTUS:I'll see you all later, then...

ELIZABETH: Good bye, dear...(after Festus leaves).I am so pleased that you will be joining us...it will be the highlight of my day...

CARMEL:Will it? What do you normally do during the day?

ELIZABETH:I clean...I wash...and I go to the market...the same thing, day in, day out...that's why I always look forward to the Feast of the Passover... I get to meet and talk to people I've never seen before....

CARMEL:But you have Festus....

(Elizabeth does not reply)

CARMEL:Your husband...

ELIZABETH:It must be hard for him....

CARMEL:In what way...

ELIZABETH:I don't know anyone who is married twice....

ANDREW:Twice?! He can't do that....who else is he married to?

ELIZABETH:The Temple...

ANDREW:What do you mean?

ELIZABETH:He spends all his time there..

CARMEL:But he comes home in the evening...

ELIZABETH:Only to eat...and to sleep.....

ANDREW:You must talk to each other..

ELIZABETH:We do but any conversation we have doesn't last long...

CARMEL:How long has he been like that?

ELIZABETH:Since our Son left home....Festus was so disappointed that he wanted to become a Farmer...and was so angry at me...

CARMEL:Why?

ELIZABETH:He thought I should have been as disappointed as he was...I tried to reason with him...I said it's not for us to decide what our Son does with his life....it's his decision...not ours.

ANDREW:And he wouldn't accept that?

ELIZABETH:(shakes her head) And from then on, he would spend more time in the temple and less time with me....

CARMEL:It's seems that his teaching means more to him than his marriage...

ELIZABETH: Now you know why I wanted to move away. I needed to meet different people in new surroundings. But by the time I told Festus how I felt and what I thought we could do, it was too late...

CARMEL:What did he say?

ELIZABETH:He thought I was being selfish and insensitive...How could I possibly suggest we move away when so many people depend on him in the Temple?

ANDREW:What I don't understand is how someone who studies the Scriptures can behave like that?

ELIZABETH:He wants to be as close as he can to God...He believes he does that by being in the temple and not being with me.

ACT 5

MARY:I hope we see you when we come next year.....

BERNICE:I'll try and find you..

MARY:But it seems such a long time to wait..

BERNICE:You'll be surprised how quickly the time goes....

MARY:That's true...I think of Jesus...I can't believe he's already twelve now...

BERNICE:That must be wonderful to see....your child growing up before you...

MARY:It is....and Joseph and I really enjoy going to different places with him...he's very well behaved and we know we can trust him...

BERNICE:You have been blessed, Mary...

MARY:And you will too, Bernice...love doesn't come to everyone at the same time...but when it does come, you will find it was worth waiting for.

BERNICE:I hope you're right...

MARY:It's easy for me to say this, I know, but, I still remember the time before I met Joseph...I remember waiting....and praying....and waiting... and praying.....

BERNICE:And then your prayers were answered...

MARY:I couldn't have found a better husband, father.... and friend....

BERNICE:I think anyone who knows Joseph would value his friendship...I'm sure Mark does....

MARY:I think Joseph wishes he could do more to help him...

BERNICE:Listening to Mark will help, I'm sure...There will be times when Mark will want to be alone.....but then there will be times when he'll want to talk....

MARY:I think you're right...but he only wants to talk to Joseph...

BERNICE:He trusts Joseph.....

MARY:And he is a good listener...

BERNICE: You think that would be easy to do...to listen to someone....but I haven't met many people who can really listen. They are probably so caught up with their lives...

MARY: So they don't have the time....

BERNICE: They have to do this....they have to do that.....

MARY: That reminds me! I have to go down to the Market...

BERNICE: Do you mind if I come with you?

MARY: No, of course not...

(Mary and Bernice leave as Joseph and Mark enter)

JOSEPH: Do you now regret coming? You haven't said so

MARK: I would have told you if I did..

JOSEPH: That's good...I did think that you wouldn't talk to anyone...but I was wrong...

MARK: So you saw me talking to Bernice?

JOSEPH: It looked like you were deep in conversation.....

MARK: She's very easy to talk to....

JOSEPH: Mary thinks she's very nice....what do you think of her?

MARK: She's very caring... and so understanding...

JOSEPH: Did you tell her about Rachel?

(Mark nods his head)

MARK: I thought I would because.....well, I'll probably never see her again so it didn't matter if she knew....and I felt I could tell her.....

JOSEPH: Didn't that upset you?

(Mark shakes his head)

MARK: There is something about her...

JOSEPH: How do you feel now? Do you think you'll see her again before we leave...

MARK:She's invited me round for a meal this evening...

JOSEPH:Really? (pause) Well, I need to find Andrew and Carmel...do you want to come?

MARK:I think I'll go for a walk...do you mind?

JOSEPH: No, of course not.....I'll see you later....

(Joseph and Mark enter as Jesus and Anna arrive)

ANNA:I really like it here....

JESUS:Why do you like it so much?

ANNA:It's much more lively than Nazareth!!

JESUS:But the Passover is not celebrated in Nazareth.....

ANNA;And everyone you see is so happy!

JESUS:Have you ever been to a celebration and seen people looking sad?

ANNA:You know what I mean....And I've never seen so many people!!...

JESUS:So you better stay close to me, Anna, you don't want to get lost in these crowds.....

ANNA:You sound like my Father...

JESUS:Your Father? I'm only twelve...

ANNA:But you don't act or talk like you're twelve...

JESUS:I still have a lot to learn....

ANNA:What are you going to be when you're older?

...
JESUS:I would like to be a Teacher...

ANNA:A Teacher? Aren't you going to be a King?

JESUS:Who told you that?

ANNA:I can't remember....don't you want to be a King?

JESUS:I would like to help people....I would like to tell people about God and how good he is...

ANNA:How do you know all about that?

JESUS:I have been reading about God....

ANNA:But if you are going to be a King....will you still be my friend?

JESUS;Of course I will, Anna....but I won't be your best friend....

ANNA:You won't?!! (pause) Who will then?.

JESUS:God.....God will always be your best friend...

ACT 6

JOSEPH: Did you think of asking her?...

MARK: The thought crossed my mind...but I think it was too soon....

MARY: It would have been asking a lot...for her to travel back with us from Jerusalem to Nazareth...

JOSEPH: Do you think she would have said "yes"?

MARK: I don't know...I really don't know...

MARY: What about everything she would have to leave behind?

MARK: Everything?

MARY: What about her Father and Mother?

MARK: They're both dead..

MARY: What about her brothers and sisters?

MARK: She's doesn't have any....

MARY: She must have some friends....

MARK: Of course she hasbut if you had the choice between friendship and love....which would you choose?

MARY: Why did you say it like that?

MARK:because that's what happens... you meet and fall in love with someone and you end up wanting to see that person more than your friends. It happened to me when I met Rachel...

JOSEPH: How could I forget?...

MARK: You've always been very understanding, Joseph....

MARY: But, Mark, did you say that because Bernice said she was in love with you?

MARK: No, no, she didn't say that but I think she likes being with me...

MARY: And you like being with her?

MARK:I do...very much...and when I was with her, I didn't think about Rachel...does that surprise you?...

JOSEPH:I could see how much you and Rachel were in love...by the way you spoke to and spoke about each other...but that doesn't mean to say you can't love again...

MARY:Your feelings have changed.....

MARK:...and you know who's responsible for that, don't you? (pause) Your Son!! He made me think about Rachel in a different way...he gave me purpose for the present and hope for the future...he, by the way, where is he?

JOSPEH:He's with Andrew and Carmel (turns to Mary)... isn't he?

MARY:I assume so...Didn't Anna want to travel back with him?

JOSEPH:It wouldn't surprise me if she did...

MARY:She's likes being with him... ..

JOSEPH:I'm sure he'll be looking after her...

MARY:She will like that....

(Andrew and Carmel enter)

ANDREW:I knew we would catch you up...

MARY:How was your meal with Festus and Elizabeth?

CARMEL:The food was very nice...

ANDREW:But the evening wasn't as enjoyable...

MARY:I'm sorry to hear that

ANDREW:I felt the tension between Festus and Elizabeth, didn't you Carmel?

CARMEL:I feel sorry for Elizabeth...I think she is trapped...

ANDREW:It must be difficult for her..

CARMEL:But it's so sad...the love they had for each other has gone...

ANDREW:And I can't see it coming back....

CARMEL:(Turns to Mark) How are you feeling, Mark? I hope coming here hasn't been too hard for you....

MARK:No, it hasn't....I think it's done me some good...

CARMEL:I'm really pleased to hear that.....

(Anna enters)

ANDREW:There you are! I saw you talking to that girl...

ANNA:She lives in Nazareth, too...

ANDREW:Have you seen her before?..

(Anna shakes her head)

ANNA:But from what she said, I think she lives near us...

ANDREW:You could see each other when we get back...

ANNA:(Raises her eyes to heaven) Why didn't I think of that?

CARMEL:Does she know Jesus?

ANNA:I don't know...

MARY:But Jesus was walking with you, wasn't he?

(Anna shakes her head)

MARY:Where is he, then?

JOSEPH:When was the last time you saw him?

MARY:I haven't seen him since we left Jerusalem...have you?

JOSEPH:Maybe he's travelling back with someone else...

MARY:Who? He's been with us all the time we've been here...

JOSEPH:We will have to go back and find him....

MARY:What if something has happened to him?

JOSEPH:It wouldn't have done....would it?

(Joseph turns to the others)

JOSEPH:Don't wait for us....we will see you back in Nazareth....

CARMEL:I hope you find him....

ACT 7

(Festus and Philip in the Temple with Jesus listening)

PHILIP: So Festus, what about the other Gods we hear about?

FESTUS: They are all false...

PHILIP: And we should just take your word for it?

FESTUS: Not my word, Philip...the word of the Scriptures...

PHILIP: You have great faith, Festus...

FESTUS: So would you...if you believed in the Scriptures...There is only one God and His will is accomplished through His Spirit. He is all powerful and possesses all authority...

PHILIP: So what do you say about those who believe in other Gods?

FESTUS: It is sinful.

PHILIP: In what way?

FESTUS: Sin is the breaking of one of God's commandments or laws. If someone knows to do good but does not do it, then it is a sin.

PHILIP: So God will turn his back on these people...

FESTUS: Not if they accept him as the one true God....

PHILIP: But they don't need to...they now worship their own God....

FESTUS: That is their choice....and their loss...

PHILIP: We should pray for them...shouldn't we?

FESTUS: Yes...but this belief cannot be given to them....It comes from finding a place for Him in your life and, when you do, you are rewarded....

PHILIP: With what?

FESTUS: With faith.....

JESUS: But the Son of God will talk to them...he will reveal to them the glory of God...

FESTUS: Who are you?

JESUS:My name is Jesus...

FESTUS:How old are you?

JESUS:I'm twelve

FESTUS:I'm surprised someone so young has studied the Scriptures...

JESUS:I read the Scriptures with my parents...

PHILIP:So what do you know about the glory of God?

JESUS:It is a beauty that we can all have in our lives. It does not come from great power or vast riches. It comes from God and who He is. And it will never leave you....it will last forever.

PHILIP:I have never heard those words from a child before....

FESTUS:It proves a very important point...

PHILIP:What is that?

FESTUS:That the Scriptures can be read and understood by the young. We should not judge anyone's capability to learn by their age...

JESUS:In the eyes of God, we are all equal....In the house of God, we will always have a home...

FESTUS:You are a good learner for someone so young....

PHILIP:A good learner, Festus? More like a good teacher....

(Joseph and Mary enters the Temple)

JOSEPH:There you are!!

MARY:At last we have found you!!...We have been so worried!!...

JOSEPH:What happened? Did you get lost?

JESUS:No, Father,

MARY:Haven't you been looking for us?

JESUS:No, Mother

JOSEPH:You haven't been looking for us? Where have you been?

JESUS:Here...in the Temple....

MARY: Didn't you think we would be worried? We thought something had happened to you...

JOSEPH: Did you tell anyone you were staying in Jerusalem? Did you tell Andrew or Carmel? What about Anna? Did you say anything to her?

JESUS: I didn't tell anyone...

MARY: We've been looking for you everywhere...

JESUS: Everywhere? Why did it take you so long to look here?

JOSEPH: Are you saying this is the first place we should have looked?

(Jesus nods)

JESUS: Didn't you know I would be in My Father's House?

(Joseph shakes his head)

PHILIP: Festus and I have to leave the Temple now... we won't be too long... I was wondering if you will be here when we return...

(Jesus looks at Joseph)

JOSEPH: Will you come back with us?

JESUS: Are you asking me to?

JOSEPH: Yes... I am asking you....

JESUS: Then I will...

(Joseph, Mary and Jesus leave the Temple)