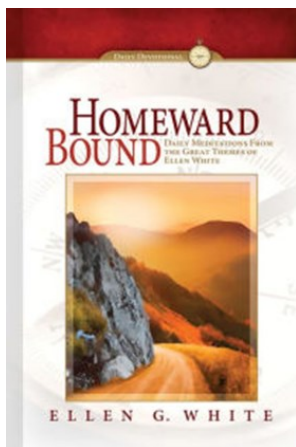


February 12

“My Father’s Business”



Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?—Luke 2:49.

How is it that ye sought Me?” answered Jesus. “Wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?” And as they seemed not to understand His words, He pointed upward. On His face was a light at which they wondered. Divinity was flashing through humanity. On finding Him in the temple, they had listened to what was passing between Him and the rabbis, and they were astonished at His questions and answers. His words started a train of thought that would never be forgotten. . . .

It was natural for the parents of Jesus to look upon Him as their own child. He was daily with them, His life in many respects was like that of other children, and it was difficult for them to realize that He was the Son of God. They were in danger of failing to appreciate the blessing granted them in the presence of the world’s Redeemer. The grief of their separation from Him,



and the gentle reproof which His words conveyed, were designed to impress them with the sacredness of their trust.

In the answer to His mother, Jesus showed for the first time that He understood His relation to God. Before His birth the angel had said to Mary, “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever.” (Luke 1:32, 33.) These words Mary had pondered in her heart; yet while she be-

lieved that her child was to be Israel’s Messiah, she did not comprehend His mission. Now she did not understand His words; but she knew that He had disclaimed kinship to Joseph, and had declared His Sonship to God.

Jesus did not ignore His relation to His earthly parents. From Jerusalem He returned home with them, and aided them in their life of toil. He hid in His own heart the mystery of His mission, waiting submissively for the appointed time

for Him to enter upon His work. For eighteen years after He had recognized that He was the Son of God, He acknowledged the tie that bound Him to the home at Nazareth, and performed the duties of a son, a brother, a friend, and a citizen.—**The Desire of Ages, 81, 82.**



12 Februari

"DI DALAM RUMAH BAPAKU"

Jawab-Nya kepada mereka: "Mengapa kamu mencari Aku? Tidakkah kamu tahu, bahwa Aku harus berada di dalam rumah Bapa-Ku?"—Lukas 2:49.

"Mengapa kamu mencari aku?" sahut Yesus, "Tidakkah kamu tahu, bahwa Aku harus berada di dalam rumah Bapa-Ku" Waktu mereka tidak mengerti perkataan-Nya, Ia menunjuk ke atas. Pada wajah-Nya tampak sinar yang mengherankan. Keilahan sedang memancar dari kemanusiaan. Ketika menemukan Dia di dalam Bait Suci, mereka

sempat mendengar apa yang berlangsung antara Dia dan nabi-nabi itu, dan mereka tercengang-cengang mendengar segala pertanyaan dan jawab-Nya. Perkataan-Nya melahirkan buah pikiran yang tidak pernah terlupakan....

Adalah wajar bagi orang tua Yesus untuk menganggap Dia sebagai anak mereka sendiri. Ia ada di antara mereka setiap hari, kehidupannya dalam banyak hal adalah serupa dengan kehidupan anak-anak yang lain, sehingga sukarlah bagi mereka untuk menginsafi bahwa ialah Putra Allah. Mereka hampir gagal untuk menghargai berkat yang dikaruniakan kepada mereka dalam hadirat Penebus dunia. Kesusahan hati akibat perpisahan



mereka dari Dia, dan teguran halus yang terkandung dalam perkataan-Nya itu, dimaksudkan untuk mengingatkan kepada mereka betapa sucinya tanggungjawab yang diserahkan kepada mereka.

Dalam jawab-Nya kepada ibu-Nya, Yesus menunjukkan untuk pertama kalinya bahwa Ia mengerti hubungan-Nya dengan Allah. Sebelum Ia lahir malaikat telah berkata kepada Maria, "Ia akan menjadi besar dan akan disebut Anak Allah Yang Mahatinggi. Dan Tuhan Allah akan mengaruniakan kepada-Nya takhta Daud, bapa leluhur-Nya, dan Ia akan menjadi raja atas kaum keturunan Yakub sampai selama-lamanya" (Lukas 1:32,33). Perkataan ini sudah dire-

nungkan Maria dalam hatinya; namun meskipun ia yakin bahwa Anaknya itu harus menjadi Mesias bagi umat Israel, ia tidak mengerti akan tugas-Nya. Kini ia tidak mengerti akan perkataan-Nya; tetapi ia tahu bahwa Anaknya itu telah menyangkal tali kekeluargaan dengan Yusuf, dan telah menyatakan bahwa ialah Putra Allah.

Yesus tidak mengabaikan hubungan-Nya dengan orang tua-Nya yang di dunia ini. Dari Yerusalem Ia pulang ke rumah bersama mereka, dan Ia membantu mereka dalam

pekerjaan sehari-hari. Ia menyembunyikan rahasia tugas-Nya dalam hati-Nya sendiri, menanti dengan taat saat yang telah ditentukan bagi-Nya untuk memulai pekerjaan. Delapan belas tahun lamanya sesudah Ia mengakui bahwa ialah Putra Allah, Ia mengakui tali yang mengikatkan Dia ke rumah tangga yang di Nazaret dan melakukan segala kewajiban seorang anak, seorang saudara, seorang sahabat, dan seorang warga negara. —Alfa dan Omega, jld.5, hlm.72,73.