

The Story Part 4 - “Dedicated” (12-28-25)

Main Text: Luke 2:22-38

Introduction: Temple visit after the birth of Jesus (probably 40 days after his birth)

1) Jesus’ Family goes to the Temple for Purification

The Sacrificial Obedience of Mary and Joseph

Luke 2:22-24 (ESV)

[22] And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord [23] (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) [24] and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Note: This was to fulfill the Law of God given to Moses.

***Remember, Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of all the Sacrifices, Laws, and all Prophecy!**

Leviticus 12:1-4 (ESV)

[1] The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, [2] “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If a woman conceives and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days. As at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean. [3] And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. [4] Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.

Leviticus 12:6-8 (ESV)

[6] “And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, [7] and he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her. Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female. [8] And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean.”

Notes on the Sacrifices:

- **Burnt Offering** - Dedication, Consecration
- **Sin Offering** - Forgiveness, Purification
- **Pair of Turtle Doves / Pigeons** - The sacrifice brought by the poor

Application: Purified and Dedicated to God through a costly **Sacrifice**

2) Simeon encounters Jesus and His Family

The Hopeful Patience of Simeon

Luke 2:25-26 (ESV)

[25] Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the **consolation** of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26] And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

Note: Simeon, through the Holy Spirit, had received revelation of a future hope of **Consolation**!

Consolation (paraklēsis): Consolation, exhortation, comfort, encouragement

The act of exhortation, encouragement, comfort. All of Scripture is actually an exhortation, admonition or encouragement for the purpose of strengthening and establishing the believer in the faith.

In Luke 2:25, the title of Messiah, "the consolation of Israel," is pointing to Him as the one who brings the predicted and long-awaited comfort to Israel.

***Special Note:** The Holy Spirit is the Paraklete (Comforter)

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NKJV)

[16] Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting **consolation** and good hope by grace, [17] comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Note: The comfort that can only come from the ultimate **Consolation**, establishes us in all we say and do!

Simeon's Patience is now fulfilled . . .

Luke 2:27-32 (ESV)

[27] And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, [28] he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, [29] "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; [30] for my eyes have seen your salvation [31] that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, [32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Note: Due to Simeon's patient waiting, he recognizes Jesus! He receives Jesus in his arms and blesses God!

The Gospel is extremely personal, to be received for ourselves, and yet it is for all of us. In Christ, we are apart of something bigger than us, that out to be recognized, received, and shared.

Unto Us a child is born. All babies are born unto their parents. But Jesus was born Unto Us!

Simeon blessed Jesus' Family . . .

Luke 2:33-35 (ESV)

[33] And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. [34] And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed [35] (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Note: They Marvelled - to wonder, marvel, be struck with admiration or astonishment. May we marvel when struck by the "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17)

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13-16 (ESV)

[13] And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. [14] Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Note: All will either rise or fall upon Jesus - His sword of truth will pierce us, may we receive it unto life!

3) Anna, the prophetess

Luke 2:36-38 (ESV)

[36] And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, [37] and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. [38] And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Note: A young married girl, widowed most likely in her early 20s, has now lived as a widow for 70 years!

Yet, she has found purpose in the presence of the Lord. Ministering to Him and others.

And as a result, she also gets to see this great fulfillment of the promise!

Conclusion: None of these people were especially qualified by a role, power, or position.

These are faithful people, who maybe seemed inconsequential in their time, yet are remembered for all time.

They faithfully and sacrificially followed the Lord, and they saw the fulfillment of their hope and received the ultimate consolation through the Messiah

Application: May we learn something from their responses to the arrival of Jesus . . .

- **Followed the Word of God** (Mary & Joseph) - a sacrifice even though poor (and currently homeless)
- **Followed the Holy Spirit** (Simeon) - He maintained his faith, by holding on in hope and remaining responsive to the Spirit. Because he obeyed that prompting, He saw and held His Messiah!
- **Held Jesus and Blessed God** (Simeon)
- **Marveled** at what was spoken about Jesus (Mary and Joseph)
- **Blessed Others** with the Good News and Truth of Jesus (Simeon)
- **Faithfulness unto the Lord** - In His presence with regular ongoing worship, fasting, and prayer (Anna)
- **Expressed gratitude to God** (Anna)
- **Encouraged others** who were waiting on the Lord (Anna)