



12/19/25

On this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast, we got to talk about the Christmas story... the story that changed the world. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Merry Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 2:21-35

In this passage, Jesus has already been born. The incredible miracles of angels revealing their hope and joy had come to pass. Mary had carried Jesus in her womb for 9 months. Joseph and Mary had wed and then traveled to Bethlehem to give birth. All these memories and promises to hold onto. I wonder if Mary and Joseph were still in awe.

As was Jewish custom, they had Jesus circumcised on the 8th day and gave Him the name Gabriel had shared with them months earlier... Jesus...Yeshua is salvation. Even from birth, Joseph and Mary were fulfilling the righteous requirements of the law so that someday it would be said of Jesus, "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4). God made sure that every law was followed down to the minutest detail.

The next law to be fulfilled was to present Jesus at the temple ~ "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 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.'"

This would have been when Jesus was 40 days old. Offering a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons meant that Joseph and Mary couldn't afford a lamb. The King of kings and Lord of lords who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, of whom it's said, "For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof", couldn't afford a lamb... He WAS the Lamb.

In case Joseph and Mary started to get used to their new normal, raising the Messiah, the hope of the world, God sent another sign... one they could add to their collection of memories so that they wouldn't have to doubt.

Side note... years ago, I started a blessing book... where I wrote down blessings from the Lord so that I could look back and remember. The sad truth is, my faith sometimes has amnesia. It's really helpful to go back and look at the memories of God's faithfulness when I need those reminders. I've let that go in the last couple years. I need to start again. I know it was extremely helpful for me when Tim was diagnosed with his tumor in 2013.

Back to the story. The next memory for their blessing book... While they were at the temple in Jerusalem, a man named Simeon just happened to show up.

Simeon wasn't just any man, and this was not just a moment for Joseph and Mary. It was a blessing for him as well.

Simeon was righteous, meaning that he had deep faith. With God, it is our faith that is counted as righteousness. Simeon was also devout, clinging to the promise of God... especially the promise of "the consolation of Israel." He was waiting for the Messiah.

But there's more about Simeon! The Holy Spirit was upon Him. The Holy Spirit was about to allow Simeon to be His mouthpiece to Joseph and Mary, and the Holy Spirit was also revealing the fulfillment of a promise made to him. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't die before he got to see the Lord's Christ... Jesus the Messiah.

This is so cool. God truly does do more than we can ask or think. Not only did Simeon get to see Jesus, he got to HOLD Jesus! He held Jesus in his arms and blessed GOD!

He said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word." I love the Greek transliteration of this... "Now Lord, You DISMISS Your servant in peace, according to Your word." Dismiss him from what? From this broken world.

Why keep Simeon, a righteous and devout man, on this earth rather than just take him home? I wonder if he had been asking the Lord, "I'm ready. Will You please take me home?" But God said, "Not yet. I'm gonna let you see the Messiah." Simeon didn't know this at the time, but he was also going to be able to be a prophetic blessing to Joseph and Mary.

He said to the Lord, "My eyes have seen Your salvation, which YOU have prepared before the faces of ALL people." Here's what so cool... When Simeon said, "ALL people", he didn't just mean the chosen people, the Jews. He also meant Gentiles! And God Himself prepared that salvation for us.

Simeon said, "He, Jesus, will be a light for Gentiles, and glory of Your people Israel." Jesus came to save THE WORLD! ALL who put their faith in Jesus will be saved... regardless of ethnicity, race, color, position, level of power, rich or poor. ALL have hope in Jesus.

Joseph and Mary just marveled. They probably said, "This needs to go in our blessing book." This man pops in out of nowhere and takes their baby in his arms and blesses God! Amazing!

First Simeon blessed God and then he blessed them. He told Mary, "Behold... check it out... this child is appointed for the falling (the ruin) and rising up of many in Israel." Yikes! "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense" (1 Peter 2:8), and the hope of all who turn to Him. No one can come face to face with Jesus and be indifferent... They will either shake a fist at Him, or they will turn to Him in repentance. This is what Simeon was prophesying about this baby in His arms. Who could think that sweet little baby could grow up to bring such upheaval to the world? But it was a good upheaval, a saving upheaval, a necessary upheaval. This baby would be a sign of salvation, and the world would oppose Him, piercing Him and His mom... on the day she would watch her son die on a cross. Wow. I hope she didn't fully understand this message at that time.

Why would Jesus bring such upheaval? His life would expose hearts. In the presence of Jesus, no one can hide behind a facade. "No creature is hidden from the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). O Lord, I see You expose my heart all the time. It's often

painful. I don't like what I see... But when You expose my heart, You do it to rescue me, not to condemn me. Let me never forget that.

In this passage I see that You think of EVERYTHING... that You keep every promise... that You aren't afraid of conflict because You know how to bring resolution. I see that there is always reason to marvel at who You are. Thank You for thinking of me, a Gentile, and for having a plan for my salvation. You are my light. Thank You for revealing the truth, even when the truth is hard. Thank You for always surrounding it with undying hope. I pray that I will present myself to You in faith and be a servant of Your righteousness, and that I will be devout in my commitment to You. Let nothing draw me away from You.