

Conflict at Christmas

Luke 2:34-35; Matthew 2:13-23

Luke 2.25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called **Simeon**, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would **not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah**. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the **parents** brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." 33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

Luke 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This **child** is **destined** to cause the **falling** and **rising** of many in Israel, and to be a **sign** that will be **spoken against**, 35 so that the thoughts of many **hearts** will be **revealed**. And a **sword** will **pierce** your own **soul** too."

Luke 11:23 Whoever is **not with me is against me**, and whoever does **not gather with me scatters**.

Matthew 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the **child** and his mother and **escape to Egypt**. Stay there until I tell you, for **Herod** is going to search for the child to **kill** him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother **during the night** and left for **Egypt**, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was **fulfilled** what the Lord had said through the prophet: "**Out of Egypt** I called my son." 16 When **Herod** realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was **furious**, and he gave **orders** to **kill** all the **boys** in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were **two** years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for **those who were trying to take the child's life** are dead." 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that **Archelaus** was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was **afraid to go there**. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of **Galilee**, 23 and he went and lived in a town called **Nazareth**. So was **fulfilled** what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a **Nazarene**.

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When **King Herod** heard this he was **disturbed**, and all Jerusalem with him.

John 10:30 "**I and the Father are one**." 31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up **stones** to **stone him**, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good

works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" 33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, **claim to be God.**"

John 10:37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." 39 **Again** they tried to **seize** him, but he **escaped** their **grasp**. 40 Then Jesus **went** back across the **Jordan** to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, 41 and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true." 42 And in that place **many believed** in Jesus.

Matthew 10:34 Do not suppose that I have come to **bring peace** to the earth. I did **not come** to **bring peace, but a sword.**

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that **everyone** will have to give **account** on the **day of judgment** for every empty word they have spoken.

Luke 14.25 **Large crowds** were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "**If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters**—yes, even their own life—such a person **cannot be my disciple.** 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, **everyone** who wants to live a **godly** life in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted.**

Romans 7.22 For in my **inner being** I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, **waging war against the law of my mind** and making me a prisoner of the **law of sin** at work within me.

1 Peter 3.14 But even if you should **suffer** for what is right, you are blessed. "Do **not fear** their **threats**; do not be **frightened.**"

1 Peter 3.16 Keeping a clear conscience, so that those who **speak maliciously against your good behavior** in Christ may be **ashamed** of their **slander.** 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to **suffer** for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 5.5 In the same way, you who are younger, **submit** yourselves to your **elders.** All of you, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the **humble.**" 6 **Humble yourselves,** therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Romans 12.16 Live in **harmony** with one another. Do **not be proud,** but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do **not be conceited.** 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone**