

Christmas 2016 LOVE

Christmas Songs

Luke 2.22-35

Lyric: the rhythm of LOVE is receiving and sacrificing

Joseph and Mary

- They came to redeem the firstborn and make offering for purity (v.22-23)
- They had *received* a Son (a lot more too – angelic visit, divine guidance, human confirmation via the shepherds)
- They worshipped with a *sacrifice* in obedience to God (v.24)
 - Sacrifice wasn't much from the worldly standpoint but they brought what they could
- They *received* Simeon and his message (v.27)

Simeon

- He *received* God's promise (v.26)
 - The promises of God are found in the Word of God
- He *sacrificed* in his waiting (v.25)
 - Sometimes the hardest part of discipleship is the waiting, but He always makes it worth it – waiting digs out a reservoir into which He can pour Himself
- He *received* the Son of God into his arms (v.28)

Jesus

- He *received* the plan to rescue people (v.30-32)
- He *sacrificed* to rescue people (v.34-35)
 - This sacrifice is the permanent marker of God's love for us
 - Romans 5.8 – 1 John 4.10
- He *received* glory due Him
 - Philippians 2.5-11

You

- You can receive Him by faith (Romans 10.9)
- You will become a living sacrifice (Romans 12.1)
- You will receive eternal life (Romans 6.23)

Questions for Discussion

1. Learning from Mary and Joseph (v.22-24), we see that worship and sacrifice are companions. How is that true for you? How is that expressed on Sunday mornings? On other days?
2. What is your favorite promise in the Word of God? How do you hold on to it? When is it most difficult to believe it?
3. Looking at the life of Simeon, we learned that sometimes waiting is a difficult part of discipleship. Have you found that to be true? How? In the sermon, Trent argued that the process of waiting allows God to create a reservoir for Him to pour Himself into. Have you found that to be true? How?
4. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us as an expression of God's love. Reread Romans 5.8 and 1 John 4.10. How does this differ from a worldly definition of love? Why would God choose to reveal His love this way? Trent argued that it is a permanent expression of love. Do you agree? What else would the sacrifice of Jesus say about God's love?
5. Jesus received the glory due to Him because of His obedience to the Father. Reread Philippians 2.8-11. How does this passage help us understand who Jesus is?