

The Great Physician

Luke 2:25-52

- In the first two chapters we've found that Luke in his research about the conception and birth of Jesus has found that God has chosen the despised, the weak, and the base people and things of the world, to put to shame the wise and the mighty, so that no flesh will glory in His presence just as **1Cor 1:26-29** says. Now after Jesus birth we'll read what else Dr. Luke found that was important enough for him to write to Theophilus in hopes of strengthening his faith in the Lord.

V25-52

- **V25-26** in accordance to **Lev 12:2-3** Mary and Joseph bring Jesus into the temple so that He according to the Law could be circumcised on the 8th day. Also He participates in the purification ceremony which was a reminder that we are all born in sin. Jesus could have been excused from that ceremony because He was sinless, yet Mary and Joseph being led by the Spirit have Him participate anyway because even as a baby Jesus was called to identify with sinners > **Math 11:19**, later in his letter Luke would agree with Mathew that Jesus didn't come for the those who were righteous, but instead He came so that sinners like us could be saved > **Lk 5:31-32**.
- Finally in Jewish culture the first of everything was always seen as special, whether it was the first of the crops sprouting out of the ground, the first of the animals being born from the stables, or the first born in a family, no matter what the first born was always given to the Lord. All of this shows that both Joseph and Mary were not only students of scripture but even more important obedient in fulfilling the Law of God, as its one thing to know truth but quite the other to follow truth, Mary and Joseph both knew and followed what God had said.
- **V25** I want to talk about this man "**Simeon**" were told that he was just and devout, that meant he was living a Holy and Godly life. Were also told that the power to live a Godly life in such an ungodly and chaotic time came from having the Holy Spirit be upon him, you see with God all things are possible, but without him we can do nothing > **Philip 4:13, Jn 15:5**.
- Finally we're told what his motivation was for living that way "the consolation of Israel" meaning he was waiting on the Messiah. **Mal 3:1** every Jewish person knew this verse that the Messiah would one day come and appear in the temple to announce deliverance to His people, the problem is no one knew when, so as time goes on people's heart grow faint until they stop believing what the scriptures say, sound familiar? That is what has happened to Israel, they knew what the scriptures said but most of them had stopped believing except Simeon.
- He was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had physically seen the Messiah, tradition says he was **113**yrs old but we cant verify that, what we can verify is that he believed. **V27-32** here is this man led by the Spirit of God, taught in the Word of God, obedient to the will of God, when the whole city should have been in the temple looking for the Messiah he is the one God chooses to see Him, how important it is for people to see God's salvation "**Jesus Christ**" before they see death, it's what gives us to have a hope that goes beyond this world > **Ps 27:13-14, 1Thess 4:13-18, Tit 2:11-13. Ps 39:7**, hope sustains us, hopelessness drains us of purpose.

- Notice Simeon takes Jesus up in his arms and repeats the prophecy that he is now ready to leap into eternity as he has seen the Lord for himself, and notice he says it with love and not bitterness, as the peace of seeing God's promise fulfilled has warmed his heart. The amazing thing about this prophecy is it mentions Jesus as a "**light to the Gentiles**", the Jews always thought that He would come to destroy the Gentiles, but Simeon lets us know that the salvation of Jesus was always meant to start with Israel but also to extend to the Gentiles.
- **V33-35** Simeon shares a promise and also a warning, can you imagine the joy and surprise of someone they didn't know seemingly knows their Son, but also trying to understand exactly what all these things meant. We know that the fall and rise of many represents how one thief blasphemed while the other repented, Peter followed but Judas despaired, as Jesus was a magnet to some but to others a repellent, as many believed but more rejected. For He will be a target for the enemy to shoot at until the end of time, and as much as we admire Mary for mothering the Messiah, it would not be all sweetness and smiles, but also sorrow and painful.
- **V36-38** were introduced to a woman named "**Anna**" which means grace, she is a widow, in this day widows didn't have an easy time, often they were neglected and exploited in spite of the commandment of the Law which says they should be taken care of **Ex 22:22, Deut 10:18**. Anna devoted herself to serving the Lord with fasting's and prayers, like Simeon she is of great age either **84**, or **104** most commentators suggest either way she has been doing this a long time.
- She's also paying attention like Simeon and she sees something is going on and goes over and instantly recognizes Who Jesus is and begins to tell all who were around that God's redemption is in Jerusalem. This is what a close walk produces, impeccable timing, and remarkable discernment, meaning you'll be where God wants you, and recognize what to do once your there. **V39-40** having obeyed the Law Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth, and as we can see Jesus grew and developed like other children but we see his spiritual development is noted first.
- We know very little about Jesus up until his public ministry except the few tidbits we read in the gospels, the thing which should stand out the most is here in **V40** the goodness and favor of God was evident in His life even as a child > **Rom 2:4**. **V41-46** this is the only story Luke gives us of Jesus youth, although it was only required that one parent attend the Feast of the Passover we see that both Joseph and Mary went every year which is a testimony of both of their faith.
- Upon returning Mary and Joseph realize Jesus is not with them so they immediately return to Jerusalem to look for Him and find Him in the temple reasoning with them over the scriptures. In traveling most would be in caravans in order to protect themselves from robbers on the road, so it was easy for children to get lost, the city is packed with travelers during this time so it took them three days to find Him, what's ironic is they think the Lord is lost when we are the ones who are lost, but again as spiritual as both Joseph and Mary are they're still only human right!
- **V47-48** Mary wasn't fully interested in the spiritual at that point as she gives Jesus a loving rebuke saying "do you know how worried we've been looking for you"? **V49** Jesus reminds her that his mission is **heavenly** not **earthly**, we all need this reminder from time to time don't we.

- These are Jesus first recorded words, “**I must be about My Father’s business**” as busy as we all are with a myriad of things going on all at once in the end, we must be about our Heavenly Father’s business that’s our mission, that should be our priority. **V50-52** as Godly and spiritual as Mary and Joseph are they don’t quite understand everything and Jesus knows that so instead of letting them know how much more smarter He is than them and telling them He takes care of them and not the other way around He simply goes with them and doesn’t disrespect them.
- He travels back to Nazareth and assumes the responsibility as the eldest son, and at some point Joseph disappears from the scene and Jesus becomes the man of the family, working his trade as a carpenter to support the family. We see the knowledge of Who He was didn’t make Jesus proud or conceited, He remained subject to the authority set in front of him (his parents) and faithful to His duties well before He entered into His public ministry.
- I heard a quote once “**A Christian does not always do extraordinary things, he does ordinary things in extraordinary ways**”. In doing so Jesus continued to grow spiritually, and physically, as He increased in favor with God and man, what a statement about our Lord. It was not because of any miracle that He’d done but in the practical mundane things He proved Himself faithful and therefore blameless before anyone other than His parents knew Who He was. Meantime Mary kept these things in her heart, which I’m sure kept her when Jesus was on the cross.