

## “PREPPING FOR PARENTING THE CHRIST CHILD”

Luke 2:21-39

### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. How God reminds us of the Bible's common author:
  - 1.
  - 2.
- B. The two different windows into Christ's birth:
  - 1. Matthew's factual account of worship: (*Mt. 1-2*) (*See back*)
  - 2. Luke's emotional account of praise (five songs): (*Lk. 1-2*) (*See back*)
- C. Praise that takes you beyond your circumstances:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

### II. A PROCEDURE, A PROMISE, AND A PRAISE:

- A. The “procedure” regarding the Mosaic Law: vv. 21-24
  - 1. Understanding the significance of the law: vv. 22-24, 27, 39 (*See Gal. 4:1-7; Mt. 5:17-18*)
  - 2. What was being taught by the law:
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
- B. The “promise” of Simeon: vv. 25-35
  - 1. His background: vv. 25-27
  - 2. His response of praise: vv. 28-32
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
  - 3. His prophetic response: vv. 34-35
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
- C. The “praise” of Anna: vv. 36-38
  - 1. Her background: vv. 36-37b
  - 2. Her ministry in the temple: v. 37b
  - 3. Her song of praise: v. 38a
  - 4. Her witness: v. 38b

### III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

## WORSHIP

Worship – (proskuneo) – “to kiss toward” conveying the idea of showing reverence or surrendering obeisance. It is a subjective feeling of awe, reverent humility, and respect as well as an objective activity of bowing, praising, prioritizing, and serving in prompt obedience. It is defined simply in Isaiah 46:6b as “they fall down, yea, they worship”. It very rarely in Scripture (less than 20%) has anything to do with music evidenced by a journey through any Bible concordance. The religious community again has chosen to redefine a Biblical term to make it less convicting and more palatable to our “Christian” culture.

“Jesus was born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross, and rose from the grave to make worshipers out of rebels!” A. W. Tozer

“The local church exists to do corporately what each should do individually, throughout the week.” A.W. Tozer

“From ‘shachah’ in the Hebrew Old Testament to ‘proskuneo’ in the Greek New Testament, worship is ALWAYS bowing physically or internally in submission to Jesus Christ. A heart that is not bowing in submission, is not worshipping.” Ron Owen (See Gen. 18:2; Mt. 2:11; 4:9; 28:9)

“No worship is wholly pleasing to God until there is nothing in me displeasing to God.” A.W. Tozer

“True worship examines us deeply; our motives and our values are scrutinized by God. In worship, God is calling us to wholeness. But first He must reveal our brokenness and blemishes. He is calling us to spiritual health, but first He must expose our wounds, bruises, and putrefying sores, and we cannot ask for a second opinion.” W. Wiersbe

The basic elements of worship as stated in Matthew 2 center on three things:

1. Bowing to display complete submission to new ownership:
2. Giving generously at the expense of getting: gold – kingship, frankincense – fragrance of all known sin confessed, myrrh – the humbling death that paid my sin debt:
3. Prompt obedience of the wise men and then Joseph:

## PRAISE

Biblical praise is an outward, vocal, and physical expression of deep admiration, thanksgiving, and honor for God’s inherent worthiness and mighty deeds, using words and singing stemming from a heartfelt acknowledgement of His goodness, leading to testimony and magnifying His name. It is not just a feeling but a commanded action, often described by Hebrew words like *halal* (to shine, boast), *zamar* (to sing), and *yadah* (to give thanks, confess) by declaring God’s glory to others.

“Praise the Lord” is a common expression and catchy slogan that trivializes a believers love and gratitude to God who has been abundantly gracious to him. David said, “My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together”. (Ps. 34:1-3) That will be the song of believers for time and eternity. God desires and deserves your praise. That’s why Hebrews 13:15 says, “Through Christ . . . let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”

There are two aspects of praise that are obvious in Scripture. First is reciting God’s attributes. That was the typical means of praise in the Old Testament. For example, Psalms 104:1-2 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my God, thou art great; Thou art clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Thyself with light as with a cloak”. The second aspect of praise is reciting God’s works. Psalms 107:21-22 says, “Let them give thanks to the Lord for His loving-kindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of His works with joyful singing.” Praise from the heart includes honoring Him for who He is and what He has done on behalf of His people. This is the acceptable spiritual pattern of praise to your loving Lord. You can praise Christ without worshipping Him, but you cannot worship Him without eventually praising Him.

## SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.