



“What Are You Waiting For?”

Luke 2:22-40
Christmas 2022

Introduction

In the words of Dr. Seuss, “Everyone is just waiting.”

- Simeon was “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (v. 25)
- Anna was “waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem” (v. 38)
- What are you waiting for?

Purification in the Temple

7 days after he was born, Jesus was circumcised in Bethlehem. When Jesus was 40 days old, Joseph and Mary traveled 6 miles to Jerusalem to present him in the temple.

According to the purification rites described in Leviticus ch. 12, Mary had to present a sin offering to the Lord (v. 24).

- The irony is that she was holding the Savior of the world in her arms.
- Even though she was a godly woman, Mary needed forgiveness and redemption like the rest of us.

Joseph & Mary couldn’t afford to sacrifice a lamb:

1. Poverty is not a sin and is not shameful in itself.
2. Poverty is not a sign of God’s disapproval.
3. Poverty does not prevent a person from worshipping God.
4. Poverty is not necessarily permanent.
5. Poverty is a cross that God entrusts to some of us for a season, and we can be faithful in it.

4 Insights About Waiting on God

1. Waiting is not a waste of time. It produces character.

Simeon:

- Righteous and devout (v. 25)
- Holy Spirit was upon him (v. 25)

Anna:

- Became a widow after 7 years of marriage (v. 36-37)
- Did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day (v. 37)

G. Campbell Morgan: “Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given.”

When we find ourselves in a situation where we have to wait, we can whine and complain and become bitter about our circumstances... or we can allow our challenges to draw us closer to the Lord.

2. God fulfills his promises at just the right time.

Verse 26 – “It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

- Simeon came in at just the right time (v. 27)
- Anna came in “at that very moment” (v. 38)

3. Expectation increases enjoyment.

Verse 28 – “he took him up in his arms and blessed God...”

Immediate gratification is over-rated. Waiting actually increases our enjoyment and appreciation for the things we have. Without waiting, contentment would be impossible.

4. There’s a difference between being comforted and being comfortable.

Verses 34-35 – “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of an occasion in your life where God fulfilled a promise to you at just the right time?
2. Why is waiting on God not supposed to be passive?
3. Why does waiting actually increase our enjoyment of things?
4. What are some things you’re tempted to take comfort in rather than God?
5. Which of the four insights about waiting on God spoke to you the most personally, and why?