

WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 16, 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

Luke 2:22-24 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:25-26 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Luke 2:27 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,

Luke 2:28-32 Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, You may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

II. HOW TO WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS

1. Be in a Posture to Receive the Promise.

A. Simeon had a posture of Faith.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

B. Simeon had a posture of Obedience.

C. Simeon had a posture of Openness.

Luke 2:28 Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:

- You will struggle to receive until you open yourself up.
- Jesus was the promise Simeon was waiting for.
- Jesus is the promise you are waiting for.

2. Wait Patiently for What God has Prepared.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

A. Serve patiently

Luke 2:29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

- How would God have you serve someone else this Christmas?

Proverbs 13:10 Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

- Humility is the first step to resolving strife.

B. Trust patiently

Luke 2:30-32 For my eyes have seen your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.

- While you are waiting, God is preparing something.
- Trade your anxiety for anticipation.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

3. Remember: Praise Brings Peace

Luke 2:28-29 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.

Psalms 103:1-5 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- *We miss out on Christmas when we fail to praise.*