



**What Child is This?
The Gospel of Luke – Luke 2:22-40
December 30-January 5, 2018**

Luke 2:22-40

“And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”
Luke 2:22-24 ESV

41 Days after the birth v. 22-24 - 33 days after the naming of Jesus

Purification – a ritual that was at the heart of the law.

The law had to be fulfilled for the purification of the blood that happens in the birthing process. (They were unclean because they had touched someone and their blood) Leviticus 12:6-8

““And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, and he shall offer it before the Lord and make atonement for her. Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female. And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean.””

Leviticus 12:6-8 ESV

(They could not afford to bring a lamb but actually brought the Lamb of God.)

Even being the mother of Jesus, she had to be purified. They brought Jesus to be dedicated to the Lord just like in 1 Samuel 2 - a first son is brought to be dedicated to the Lord

v. 25-35 The Song of Simeon

(The 3rd Song - the other two we have studied prior - Song of Mary-Magnificat, & the Song of Zechariah)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.””

“And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “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.””

Luke 2:33-35 ESV

Simeon recognizes Jesus for Who He is. He announces that Jesus is a light for revelation to the Gentiles

Commonalities to these three we have studied in this series:

Gabriel is present w/ Zechariah - he didn't believe but did after many months

Mary - believed what Gabriel told her

Simeon - had heard a promise from God and he believed it - he saw Jesus and believed that He was the promised Jesus.

Another believed - Anna the Prophetess

"And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem."

Luke 2:36-38 ESV

Prophet - in Greek means spokesman - prophetess - spokeswoman

Not a fortune teller, not someone who sees the future, but someone who speaks for God.

If you speak for God, it must agree with Scripture.

Anna never remarried and stayed at the temple, fasting and praying.

Miriam - Exodus 15

Deborah - Judges

Who can you go to when you are troubled and they will give you Godly advice?

Reminder - discernment is the difference between right and almost right.

If you fail to recognize God at work you are not fasting from things that are distracting you spiritually.

Resolutions are really fasting from things -

Lose weight - skip things that make us fat

Exercise more - fast from laziness

Quit smoking - fast from nicotine

More organized - fast from clutter

Spend more time with family - fast from self indulgence

To speak for God, one has to spend time in His Word.

What are you willing to fast from? What are you willing to pray for?

Back to Reality v. 39-40

"And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him."

Luke 2:39-40 ESV

They fulfilled the Law and went home to Nazareth. Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. God's favor was on Him.

What is reality for you? How do you see Jesus in the ordinary life? How do you live faithfully in the normalcy of life?

God uses those who are devoted to Him to reveal His truth to the world. Will you be one He can use?

Take time to share dreams and goals for 2019 and prayer concerns.