

SEEING JESUS & WAITING FOR HIM

(Luke 2:21-38)

The gift of sight is a precious gift indeed. To be able to see the world with all its beauty and color is glorious.

How poor we would be if we could not see the faces of our loved ones, our children and grandchildren. As well beholding the beauty of God's creation. Thank the Lord for your ability to see. Never take it for granted.

Of all the things to see in life, the most wonderful of all would be able to look upon God and see His face. This is called the "beatific vision." Someday we will all look upon the face of Jesus.

After Mary gave birth to Jesus, she and Joseph soon had Jesus circumcised and made their way to the Temple to obey the Law of God. Dr. Luke tells that while they were there two aged people saw the greatest sight of all.

TWO PAIRS OF GODLY PEOPLE WHO AFTER FINALLY SEEING JESUS, TEACH US MUCH ABOUT LIFE. For this account is full of life application!

I. Mary And Joseph Were The First To See God's Promised Son, And Their Godly Response Should Move Us In Like Manner. (vv.21-24)

A. Mary and Joseph were obedient to God's Word and had their Son circumcised on the 8th day.

1. It was usual for the father to perform this. Commonly done in the home.
2. It was their hearts desire to obey God in doing so. (Lev 12:3)
3. This was God's ordained command for all Israelite males, a sign of the covenant. and as was common, they gave Jesus His name at that time.

B. Furthermore, after 5 weeks, they took Jesus to the Temple in accordance with God's Word.

they went from Bethlehem to the Temple for two reasons: (vv.22-24)

1. Purification. The Law taught that all women who gave birth were ceremonially unclean for at least 40 days. (Lev. 12) She could not enter the Temple or touch anything holy. Then she had to go and offer two sacrifices: sin and burnt offerings. Mary reveals her godliness by obeying the Word of God. What did all this mean? "A mother's ceremonial uncleanness TEMPERED the natural joy of bringing a new life into the world with the SOBER reality that the child like its parents, was a sinner." So the poor parents offered the blood of two doves.
2. Presentation. Mary and Joseph came with Jesus to present Him and dedicate Him to God. Again, this was what God's Word required. Jesus was a first born son, and hence belonged to God. (Exodus 13:13-15) Parents were allowed to raise their own children but had to acknowledge God's sovereignty over them and by giving an offering.

Note What We Learn From Mary And Joseph:

- A. Parents we do much for our children, but the most important is spiritual. Be godly parents, and lead your kids to the Lord. Give them to God, pray for them, teach, take to worship, etc.
- B. Again, see how much God loves the common ordinary people, like Mary and Joseph. Like us! The Lord bypasses the proud, high-minded, and often the establishment...

II. Simeon And Anna Saw Jesus At The Temple And Gave Praise To God.(vv.25-38)

- A. Simeon waited to see Jesus. He believed God who told him he would see Him before he died.
 - 1. At just the right moment, he entered the Temple and saw...God's providence. (v.27)
 - 2. Simeon took the babe in his hands and praised God. "Now I can die!!!" (vv28-35)
- B. Anna, a godly aged widow, happened upon Jesus at the Temple, and after seeing Him gave praise to God and bore witness of Him to others. (vv.36-38)

Note What We Learn From Simeon And Anna:

- A. Don't be surprised, there are only a few, a remnant, who are redeemed and looking for Jesus.
- B. Simeon teaches us it is only after we see Jesus with the eyes of faith can we die in peace!
- C. We too need to honor those who have walked faithfully with God through the decades.
- D. Simeon shows us what it means to be a believer, to wait upon God in faith. Rest in His Word.
- E. God rules over all, marvel at His sovereign timing. It is true in our lives as well.
- F. Anna shows us what it means to serve God through the seasons of life. Virgin, married, widowed
- G. God desires the same with us: Worship and Witness. This is the Christian life.
- H. Remember: God has a different mission for each of us. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, etc...
- I. We too are to overflow with praise and a song of thanksgiving to the Lord. Daily sing to Him!
- J. Today we too are to busy serving Him as we wait for His return. Are you?