



Sunday, December 20, 2020

Key Text: Luke 2:21-25

Music has always been a part of the Christmas story. In many ways, I think you could say that music is our best response to the mystery of Christmas.

Simeon had an **eternal perspective** and longed for the coming Messiah, and he realized peace only could be experienced through an encounter with the Messiah. **He found hope in his waiting.** May we eagerly **wait on God** to work in our life, family, and community.

Setting the Scene:

²⁵ At that time, there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was **eagerly waiting** for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Luke 2:25-26

- If Advent could be summed up in one word, that word would be *waiting*.
- Simeon's life gives us clues in how to be a person who does not give up hope.

While We Wait ...

1. We Are Refined. (Luke 2:21-24)

The Purification of Mary

- Circumcision Ceremony
- (Foreshadow -First Born Male Offering required a Burnt Offering (Pair of Turtle Doves or pigeons, if unable to afford a lamb. This offering was the replacement for sin. "Them for me." (Leviticus 5:11,12:8) Jesus Christ is the burnt offering you and I.

There was, therefore, a ceremony called the Redemption of the Firstborn (Numbers 18:16). It is laid down that for the sum of five shekels—almost a month's pay—parents could, as it were, buy back their son from God. The sum had to be paid to the priests. It could not be paid sooner than thirty-one days after the birth of the child, and it might not be long delayed after that.¹

- The Old Testament's sacrificial system and the prophets' spiritual teachings pointed to a Messiah's coming. In these Old Testament sacrificial offerings, The redemptive offerings, the Day of Atonement, the Passover all spoke to them of the coming Christ.

2. We Hold On To The Promises Of Christ. (Luke 2:25-28)

- **Righteous and Devout**- A Man who followed the law closely. This passage implies he was in tune with what the scriptures promised.

Among the "righteous" (*dikaioi*) of the Old Testament were Job (Job 1:1) and many of the prophets. The word "devout" (*eulabes*) was used in Greek culture of statesmen (Plato, *Statesman*, 311b); Philo used this word to describe Abraham (Philo, *Who is the Heir?* 6 § 22). Whereas the shepherds symbolized the average person on the street, Simeon represents the testimony of a wise elder who has walked with God.²

- **Eagerly Waiting** – In a season of hopelessness and cynicism, Simeon did not give up on a promise of a Messiah. Many would have witnessed the lack of care, corruption, and perhaps concluded the Lord had given up on them. Why continue with the various festivals and celebrations when there still was the present pain. Jesus came at a critical time in history. Simeon did not abandon hope when life was complicated. God answered his promise to a Simeon.

"Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you. ²Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. ³All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. Isaiah 60:1-3

¹ Barclay, W. (2001). *The Gospel of Luke* (pp. 29–30). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

² Bock, D. L. (1996). *Luke* (pp. 92–93). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

- **Prompting of The Spirit** – The timing of this meeting was not an accident. The Spirit led him.

3. We Praise God in the Good and the Bad. (Luke 2:29-32)

This song is known as the Nunc dimittis ("now dismiss")³ a name from the Latin beginning to the hymn.

- Simeon has complete peace as God kept His promise. (Vs. 29)
- True peace comes when we, like Simeon, look into the eyes of Jesus and realize that we will never have salvation until we encounter Him.
- He has come to bring light for all people.

4. We Prepare For His Return. (Luke 2:33-35)

- He learned the secret of being content.

¹¹Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹²I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:11

- He will be the cause of **many to fall**. When we refuse to answer the beckoning of Christ, we stand condemned.
- He will bring **joy to many**. Jesus changes lives! He makes us new and takes us out of our old life. We move from shame to glory.
- He will **face opposition**. There is no neutral party; we are for Him or against Him.

Last Thoughts:

In Bethlehem, Joseph placed Jesus in a manger. At his return Jesus will be seated on a throne.

*²⁷And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to **bring salvation** to all who are **eagerly waiting for him**.* Hebrews 9:27-28

*¹¹Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹²**looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along**. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.* 2 Peter 3:11-12

May you celebrate Christ's first coming while eagerly waiting for his second coming. Perhaps it will be today?

³ [New Living Translation Study Bible](#). (2008). (Lk 2:29–32). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.