

It's What I've Always Wanted!

Luke 2:21-35

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² 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 ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ¹

Simeon spent his entire life waiting for Christmas. In the process, he discovered that God's best gift satisfies the deepest longing of our heart.

Joseph & Mary brought Jesus to the Temple (21-24)

Simeon waited for Christmas his entire life (25-29)

- He waited with confidence (25-26)
- He looked for where God was at work (27-28)
- He believed God's promises (29)

Simeon discovered God's best gift satisfies the deepest longing of our heart (30-35)

- He declared, "It's what I've always wanted!" (30-32)
- He was a blessing to others (33-35)

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Lk 2:21-35). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.