

"Dedicating the Child"

Luke 2.21-40

1. The Dedication

a. Parents who Obeyed the Lord vs. 21-24

v. 21 "eight day" CIRCUMCISION // Sign of the Covenant

Genesis 17:11,12 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised

Jesus NO SIN TO "CUT AWAY" // Obedient Submission // his baptism

TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE SINS OF HIS PEOPLE

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. □

JESUS TO JOHN REGARDING BAPTISM -

Matthew 3:15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."

Without circumcision: Regarded as Gentile, No Lawful place in Jewish Assembly, No right to any Jewish ordinance

v. 21 "named by angel" GOD IS SAVIOR / "He will save his people"

COMMON NAME AT THE TIME = Joshua

// Hawaiian & African Culture - named by Elders COUPONS / dreams
NAMED BY GOD HIMSELF

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

AFTER 40 DAYS...

v. 22 "purification" OF MARY // Hygiene & Wisdom of OT Law

Joseph - Head of Household / ALSO RESPONSIBLE

Leviticus 12:8 If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean."

Lev 12.8 PUBLIC DECLARATION OF POVERTY

WISE MEN HAD NOT YET BROUGHT THEIR GOLD!

Jesus grew up in poor home; food, clothing, simplicity
Model of CONTENTMENT AND HUMILITY

b. Child Devoted to God vs. 22,23

v. 23,24 "redemption" OF FIRST-BORN / Redeemer is Redeemed

PASSOVER NIGHT - Death angel took all Egypt's First-born

ALL ISRAEL'S FIRST BORN BELONGED TO GOD/ UNDER SAME
DEATH PENALTY

Levities - RELEASED by Temple Service

Non-Levites - Paid five sheckels of silver / several days wages

NOT EASY BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE

Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law

Hebrews 2:17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

BABY DEDICATION NOT COMMANDED

c. Family Continued in Obedience v. 39,40,51,52

v. 39 Parents

v. 40 Jesus

Jesus can SYMPATHIZE with us in every stage of life -cradle/grave

2. The Devout Witnesses

Simeon - LAYMAN - AGE UNKNOWN - ready to go with the Lord

Anna (name means "grace") - 84 - or perhaps widow for 84 years!

RIGHTEOUS - DESPITE EVIL ERA

OT - MOUTH OF TWO WITNESSES / TRUTH ESTABLISHED

a. Looking to God

v. 25b "consolation of Israel" = COMING OF THE MESSIAH

DISCIPLES ON THE EMMAUS ROAD -

Luke 24:21 we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

v. 29b "now" TIME IS FULFILLED / Mark 1.15

FOCUS ON HEAVEN, PHIL 3.20

v. 38 There was a remnant of Israelite Believers - Waited in Hope

Gathered in Temple to Pray and Encourage Eachother

Romans 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

WATCH AND PRAY - NOT pressing nose against glass in idleness

HAVING SOMETHING TO SHOW HIM - BRING HIM JOY

LOOKING TO Ed Mc Mahon and Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes

b. Living for God v. 25a,29,

v. 25 "righteous" RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH MEN

"devout" RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

v. 37 "NEVER LEFT" lived very near, FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

Psalms 84:2 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

v. 29 "Sovereign" FULL CONTROL OF EVERY DETAIL OF MY LIFE

He is for all - ISSUE - Do we acknowledge? Rejoice? NO ACCIDENTS

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

"It is Well with My Soul"

v. 29 "NOW" Ready to Die // Ready to Live for God // DEAD TO SELF

LANGUAGE OF A FREED SLAVE / Complete Change of Life

c. Listening to God // LEAD BY GOD

v. 25-27 "Holy Spirit upon him...revealed by H.S...Moved by H.S."

UNIQUE FOR AN OT BELIEVER / Pre - Pentecost

LUKE'S EMPHASIS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

v. 37c,38 "fasting and praying..Coming at that very moment"

Ills- Holy Spirit // Radio Receiver - RECEIVES GOD'S TRANSMISSION

3. The Declaration about the Child

a. Savior of the World vs. 30-32, Isaiah 49.6

"ALL people..the Gentiles"

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

"GLORY OF ISRAEL" - SURPASSES ALL GLORY OF OLD COVENANT

2 Corinthians 3:9 If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.

v. 33 "marveled" - THEIR BABY WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD

b. Demands a Decision vs. 34,35a, 20.17,18

JESUS IS HISTORY'S DIVIDING RANGE

One Person - Repentance Precedes Forgiveness

Two People - Christ is Savior and Judge / RECEIVE OR REJECT

1 Corinthians 1:23 we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

DUAL EFFECT OF THE GOSPEL -

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.

c. Life of Suffering v. 35b, 23.27

v. 34 "sign that will be spoken against" Acknowledge and REJECTED

BETTER FOR MANY NOT TO HEAR GOSPEL i.e. Christmas Eve Service

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Luke 23:35-39 the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself ...The soldiers also came up and mocked him...One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him

**v. 35 "sword will pierce your soul too" wd. LARGE BROAD SWORD
FRIGHTFUL PIERCING ANGUISH**

Close - NEUTRALITY about Jesus is FOREVER IMPOSSIBLE

Have you fallen in repentance to rise in newness of life?

Is He your Savior or your Judge?