

Then Darkness Turned to Dawning #3

December 31, 2023

Series Title: Then, Darkness Turned To Dawning!

Today's Message: My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation! Luke 2:25-38

Everything about the first coming of Christ speaks of His humility. His mother was not a princess or a queen. His step-father was a carpenter, or most likely a stone mason. That fact that Mary's pregnancy and the timing of it was scandalous because she was pregnant before her marriage to Joseph. The events surrounding His birth describes the humble circumstances of the incarnation of the Son of God. **Luke 2:7** gives us some details: It is conceivable that upon their return to Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph and Mary's extended family clan, that Joseph's family refused to welcome Mary into one of their homes. (There was no room in the "inn" can also mean that there was no guest room available.) So, instead of being offered the hospitality of a close relative, Mary and Joseph had to settle for a small barn where the animals were kept. Upon giving birth to Jesus, Mary laid Him in a manger— that is, in the feeding trough where the animals would eat their fodder.

We have to remember that in every way Jesus was humbled by choice: by the will of the Father and of the Son! **Philippians 2:7** says, "...but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." What could speak louder of His low birth than being born in a stable? Isaiah 53:3 tells us that He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Who would ever think that the Son of Man would be despised and rejected even while in the warmth of His mother's womb? But, Jesus was. He was born into poverty (His parents had to offer the sacrifice not of a lamb but of two turtledoves— the sacrifice afforded by the poor people (Leviticus 12:8).) He bore our infirmities, our sorrows, our griefs, our rejection, and our shame from the womb to the cross. Jesus knows our every weakness. He knows what hunger is. He knows what our souls thirst for. You, yourself may have felt the pain of rejection; He knows the pain of rejection. Perhaps you have felt disgraced in your life; He knows what it feels like to suffer disgrace. He was mocked, insulted, ridiculed and rejected by men.

Our passage today leads us to the Gospel! For in this passage we see the faith of two people become sight! We see the faith of two people well up to praise and glory to God! We see hope abound not only for the two, but also for all who are looking for His appearing and the consolation of God!

In those days, there were people who were looking for the consolation of Israel. That is, they were looking for God's Messiah, sent from God for the salvation of His people. Among them we know of Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah (John's parents). And we know of Simeon and Anna. God in His great mercy made it plain to these that Jesus is God's Messiah, the consolation of Israel, promised by God in the Scriptures! The time had come and God saw to it that these long-suffering souls saw the Lord!

I. (Luke 2:25-38) The Story of Simeon and Anna

A. They were looking for Messiah

1. (2:25-26) Simeon

- a) Was a righteous and devout man
 - (1) Righteous in his conduct toward people (Loved his neighbors)
 - (2) Devout in his commitment to God (Loved His God)
- b) Was waiting for the consolation of Israel
 - (1) God had promised to console/ comfort Israel in Isaiah 40:1-2

- (a) A Messianic Promise from God: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”
 - (i) Messiah would, in fact, accomplish this! And the message would be preached upon His completion of the work the Father sent Him to accomplish!
 - (2) Simeon believed the word of the Prophet Isaiah!
 - (3) The Holy Spirit was upon him
 - (a) Not only the Spirit of holiness (see 2:25)
 - (b) But also the Spirit of prophecy (see 2:34-35)
 - 2. (2:36-37) Anna, the prophetess
 - a) Very old. A widow for 84 years, or until she was 84.
 - b) She was devout (zealous) for the Lord, remaining at the temple night and day.
 - (1) Worshiping continually, Fasting and praying
 - (a) While others were living life doing what they wanted, Anna was attending to spiritual matters
 - (b) A life devoted to and attentive to God and things God loves.
- B. An example for the older Christian
 - 1. How wonderful to see two older people remaining zealous for God in their old age.
 - a) Setting a godly example: actively serving the Lord in their old age
 - b) Walking with the Lord, strengthening their grip
 - (1) The closer to the Lord they walked with the Lord the brighter was the light of their testimony.
 - c) **Challenge:** If we want younger people to be faithful to the Lord, older Christians must be zealous in prayer, Bible study, demonstrating and modeling what a Christian life should look like!
- C. (2:27-28; 38) Then God moved: The happy Providence of God
 - 1. Simeon
 - a) (2:27-28) How did Simeon know? The Holy Spirit moved him!
 - b) Simeon took the baby in his arms
 - (1) He was holding the Son of God in the flesh!
 - (2) See how the Lord comforted Simeon
 - (a) The Lord will comfort His people that seek Him
 - (i) Isaiah 66:13a, “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...”
 - 2. Anna
 - a) (2:38) “At that very moment” when Mary and Joseph came in.
 - 3. God caused these two people who were looking for Messiah to find Him immediately.
 - 4. We should be diligently looking for Christ in everything, including His second coming.
 - a) If you look for Him He will reward you!
 - (1) Psalm 81:10, the Lord says, “Open your mouth and I will fill it!”

- (a) Like a bird waiting for its mother to feed it!
 - b) Be expectantly waiting upon the Lord! He will make things right!
- II. (2:29-32) Simeon's Responsive Praise
 - A. He responds to Sovereign God, keeper of His promises of His Messiah!
 - 1. He can now pass from this life!
 - a) Philippians 1:21: To die is gain!
 - B. He responds to the salvation of the Lord in the person of Jesus Christ!
 - 1. "My eyes have seen Your salvation!
 - a) What do we see when we see the Messiah in His arms?
 - (1) We see the Source of Salvation in Christ
 - (a) Jonah 2:9: "Salvation comes from the Lord!"
 - (i) Ephesians 1:5-6: "Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. To the praise of the glory of His grae, wherein **He has made us acceptable in the Beloved!**"
 - (ii) He accepted you first! Before you accepted Him.
 - (2) We see the Price of Salvation in Christ
 - (a) Matthew 20:28: He is the ransom price for our redemption
 - (b) 1 Peter 1:18-19: "For you know that it is not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."
 - (c) John 1:29: The Lamb of God
 - (3) We see the Love of the Triune God in Christ working for us
 - (a) Titus 3:4-6: "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior."
 - (4) We see the Certainty of Salvation in Christ
 - (a) John 10:28: "I give them eternal life and they shall never perish."
 - (5) We see a Secure Salvation in Christ
 - (a) Hebrews 2:13b: "Here am I, and the children God has given me."
 - (i) John 6:39: "I shall lose none of all that He has given Me." (in the eternal counsel of God)
 - b) Everyone who looks in faith to the Savior can say, "My eyes have seen your salvation!"
 - (1) Mary saw her salvation; the Shepherds saw their salvation; the wise men, the apostles. The thief on the cross. After His resurrection, in the upper room the disciples saw their salvation.
 - (2) At the cross, though beaten and humiliated we see our salvation.

(a) "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved!" Romans 10:13

(i) Look ONLY upon Jesus. He is your salvation

(a) Not to good works

(b) Not to religious exercises

C. Simeon Sees the Light Dawning!

1. He sees the Light, that "lightens the Gentiles"

a) All people are in darkness unless the Lord shines the Light of Christ

(1) John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2. He sees the glory of Israel

a) In Him all the promises made to Abraham are fulfilled! And it is to the glory of Israel.

(1) One day, there will be a great awakening for Israel!

3. (2:34-35) He sees a suffering Christ

a) Many will be offended by Christ and His words and works, especially the redemptive work of the cross;

b) and many will believe.

c) Many will feel the pain of His pain: the insults, the accusations, the rejection, the suffering on the cross, etc.

III. Then Darkness turned to dawning

A. If you have been born again, you can say with Simeon today, "My eyes have seen Your salvation.

1. He has caused you to see! What a privilege has been granted to you!

a) Salvation is of the Lord! It is He who opened your heart and eyes!

(1) He made you willing according to His grace!

(a) Psalm 110:3, "He will make them willing in the day of His power!"

B. If you are not saved and today you are troubled in soul and convicted of your sin then,

1. Look for Him! Perhaps right now the darkness is turning to dawning in your heart. Will you look upon Jesus and say with Simeon, "My eyes have seen Your salvation." Look and live today!