

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Luke 2:21-39--December 17th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Nunc Dimittis

I. Mary & Joseph's Obedience (v.27-34)

Mary and Joseph are very deliberate, very intentional in their obedience to God's law.

a. Circumcision

- Jesus (Abraham's Seed) receives the sign of Abraham's covenant (circumcision) according to the law.

b. Purification

- Mary offers a sacrifice that she would be made ceremonially clean after giving birth to a male.
- Irony in the circumstances:
 - A birthing mother was made unclean by the innate guilt and sin of her new son. In this case, Mary gave birth to the sinless Son of God. There was no guilt.
 - Mary and Joseph are too poor to purchase a lamb and must offer two doves instead. The King of kings and Lord of lords is impoverished.
 - Mary offers a sacrifice for the cleansing of sin while holding in her arms the true and better sacrifice that would cleanse the sins of His people.

c. Consecration

- Being the firstborn, Jesus was presented in the temple, according to the law, in order to consecrate him to God's service.

From the very beginning, Jesus life was marked by obedience to the law of God.

II. Simeon's Song (v.25-34)

Simeon is significant because he is insignificant. He is an ordinary man who we know nothing about other than the fact that he waited faithfully on the Lord for the consolation of Israel.

a. Salvation

- "My eyes have seen your salvation"--"My eyes have seen the one fitted to save." Jesus, alone, can save his people.
- Having seen the object of his faith, Simeon sings, Nunc Dimittis- "now dismiss your servant in peace." With Jesus, Simeon knows his life is complete.

b. Light

- The salvation brought by Jesus, is not just for Israel. He is a light to the Gentiles.

c. Opposition

- The ministry of the Messiah would be marked by opposition and suffering.
- This suffering and, ultimately, the death that would save his people, would be a sword in the heart of his mother.

III. Anna's Devotion (v.35-38)

- Having devoted her life to worship and finally seeing her Lord, Anna responds in song and evangelism.

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Mary and Joseph bother with circumcision, purification, and consecration? What does this tell us about Jesus's ministry?
- What can we learn from their obedience?
- What is most significant about Simeon and Anna?
- How does Simeon demonstrate patience and faith in the fulfillment of God's promises?
- How is waiting on the Lord an expression of faith?
- Considering the concept of redemption and how Simeon sees Jesus as a light for the Gentiles, what does this mean for the broader message of salvation?
- What is the sword that would pierce Mary's soul? What does that tell us about the reason Christ was born?
- In what ways does Anna's devotion and worship serve as an example for believers today?

Application:

- How can Mary and Joseph's (but more importantly, Jesus') obedience aid you in your Christian walk today?
- Consider the themes of waiting and anticipation in this passage. How can you apply these themes to your own life as you wait for God's promises to unfold?
- How is Jesus being a light to the Gentiles good news for you today? (Think beyond salvation)
- Why was Jesus born? How does that inspire devotion and worship in you today?

