

Overview

There are several references in today's text about the fulfillment of the law and sacrifices. Since through Jesus' ministry He opposed the Jewish leaders of the day one might suspect that He may not have been raised in a strict Jewish home. From today's passage we see both Joseph and Mary fulfilling the Old Testament law concerning the cleansing of Mary after childbirth and the presentation of Jesus at the temple. Just from the first two chapters of Luke we can read about people of all ages reacting to the birth of Jesus. We read about John the Baptist jumping in his mother's womb in Luke 1:41 to Simeon and a very elderly widow, Anna, (Luke 2:36) proclaiming the truth about Jesus Christ to all who would listen. Often people will use age as an excuse for not wanting to be actively involved in ministry. Some people use the excuse of being too young while others think they are too old. God wants all of us to be obedient no matter how young or old we are. Both Simeon and Anna are near the end of their life and are still serving with all the energy they can muster. It is amazing to see the contentment in Simeon. His life wasn't defined by success, hurts, or failures, but by seeing Jesus and knowing God. In Luke 2:29 Simeon says "you may now dismiss your servant in peace." Everything else in his life paled to seeing the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel. This is similar to when the Apostle Paul wrote that he can be content whatever the circumstances in Philippians 4:11. True contentment will not come from your circumstances but only from knowing the author of contentment.

Bible Study: Luke 2:28-35

1. Read Luke 2:27. Although Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents they still approached God with reverence by fulfilling the requirements of the Old Testament Law. How do you approach God with reverence? In what ways is this acted out in the church today?
2. Read Luke 2:29. Simeon was content in just seeing Jesus. How do you define contentment in your life?
3. Simeon said to Mary that a sword would pierce her own soul. Do you think Mary knew that Jesus was born to die? Discuss what it must have been like to be the mother of Jesus.
4. Read Luke 2:35. In what ways does a relationship with Jesus reveal a person's heart?
5. Does someone's age help or hinder when participating in the ministry of Jesus? Why?
6. Read Luke 2:34. In what ways have you seen the ministry of Jesus cause division within countries, friendships, or families?
7. Why did God choose to be born in a stable instead of a palace? How does this humble beginning allow Him to minister to everyone no matter their status in life?
8. In what ways does Jesus' whole life from the manger to the cross demonstrate His love for you?