

“Simeon’s Song...Our Song”

(St. Luke 2:22-40)

Pastor Espinosa

The Text: *“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel (vv 29-32).”*

Introduction: “The Presentation” for the baby Jesus at 40 days old not to be confused with the circumcision of Jesus at 8 days old.

- A. At the circumcision of Jesus -- when He was only 8 days old -- our Lord already began to shed His blood to save us. His perfect fulfillment of the Law of God was already being conducted not for Himself -- for He had no sin -- but for us so that by His perfect fulfillment and righteousness His life would be counted for our sinful lives.**

- B. But there was much more to be done and 40 days after His birth and 32 days after the circumcision He is brought to the temple this time for a presentation that was for purification.**

- 1. The holy family brought prescribed clean and sacrificial animals for their entire families’ purification. In this case, a pair of turtledoves and two young pigeons (v 24).**

- 2. And while it may be easy for us to understand why Mary and Joseph needed purification, what about Jesus (because He too was definitely included)?**

- 3. This tests us dear Christians as to how much we actually understand the Gospel. Too often religious folks throw the word “Gospel” around, but if one were to stop and ask, “What does this mean?” I’m not too certain how folks would do. The good news of salvation in Christ Jesus is quite simply a happy and glorious exchange...if we are to be saved we must know and trust in this truth:**

Christ took our sin; we took His righteousness.

Or put in another simple way...

The righteous is counted as sinner; sinners are counted as righteous.

4. This exchange is exactly what was already happening here at the presentation with Simeon.

C. This explains why events like the presentation are recorded in Scripture. Many people do not see the significance of such events. Why is this event that occurred 2000 years ago of any relevance to me and my life?! It is gigantically relevant. It is an event that proves why Jesus came. In every step of His life He was working to save you from your sin and death! The presentation guarantees it, because this sinless 40-day old child had no need to otherwise be purified!

Part I: But for this presentation to occur, there had to be a real event marked by what was received through ARMS, EYES, and EARS!

A. Simeon entered the temple and took Jesus into His arms (v 28)...and all of a sudden filled with the Holy Spirit, Simeon SAW with new eyes by the power of God.

B. This 40-day old child was all of sudden in his Spirit-inspired vision a 33 year old man, He was dying on a cross, shedding His blood, and atoning the sins of the world.

C. So with the baby in his arms, and the Spirit's vision in his eyes, Simeon could also hear from the Lord the message of the Holy Spirit. It did not come from Simeon, but from the Lord (v 27 states that Simeon came "in the Spirit"). And He said in His great song:

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

1. He was so full of joy, assurance and the peace of God which far surpasses all understanding that he said he was ready to die. This will be very difficult for younger people to understand, but easier for the older Christians here. This world and this life has many beautiful things and we are thankful for the great gift of life here on earth, *but* the best of all things is in the Lord and to know Him is know the best of life that is not confined to this world, but is eternal life that includes this world and the eternity beyond it...we know that in Christ, we will not die, but live and so this thing called "death" becomes nothing to the believer...so Simeon can say that now that He has Christ he is ready to die!

2. He is able to say it because of what he has SEEN, yes, what we SEE is vital and the Lord knows that what you SEE is also vital for your faith. In Jesus, Simeon sees salvation; He sees the One on the cross, and the One who defeats the grave!
3. And Simeon confirms that this salvation and revelation is for all people...after his song he says more to Mary and assures her:

“Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed...so that thoughts form many hearts may be revealed (vv 34-35).”

4. That is, there are only two states to be in before the Living God and Savior...either condemnation and to end life on the Savior’s left hand; or salvation and to end life on the Savior’s right hand...a person must either fall OR rise. There is no third option.
5. So there Simeon experiencing the New Creation...holding Jesus in His arms; seeing Jesus with His eyes; hearing the Word of God by the Spirit in His heart and mind...arms, eyes, and hearing.

Part II: And nothing really has changed!

- A. Jesus comes again to the temple, but now to the temple of His Church...He stills comes among sinners...among you and among me.
- B. And then He permits you dear Christian to hold Him in your arms. This imagery is especially true for example when you take the blood of Christ with your hands and arms and in this way hold Christ!
- C. And it is true when it comes to what you see for example at the Holy Absolution and you see this sign of the cross...it is no ordinary thing that you see, but it is a visible sign which accompanies what you also hear.
- D. And what is it that you hear? You hear the very voice of Christ: “I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” This Word that you hear is God speaking and it is a sure and certain Word guaranteed by the blood of Jesus!
- E. What does this new holding, seeing, and hearing accomplish? It makes you among those who are raised and not among those fallen. You have already been raised through the first rising of Christ in your hearts – the first resurrection – which was your

conversion at holy baptism, and you shall be raised again when you shall hear the voice of Christ like Lazarus did and your burial place will be overcome by the power of the voice of Christ!

- F. Thanks be to God dear Christians, the presentation of Christ means your presentation to God holy and without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish...in Christ you were and are still presented as a holy one of God. Let us now go forth as His new creation and serve the Lord and our neighbors with what we hold onto, with what we see, and with what we hear...namely, the Lord and His Word so that we may be a blessing to those with whom we share Christ and His Word with.**

- G. Christ was presented for you and Christ is presented in you. Our Christmas celebration continues to say the very least!**