

Luke 2:21-35
Nativity: When Hope was Born Part 3
Christmas Series 2020

Good morning- Hope you had a Blessed Christmas

A)Ours was wonderful – most of the presents centered around our grandson Josiah

B)He seemed to think it was His birthday.

C)Well here we are two days after Christmas and I thought it would be appropriate for us to look at what happened after Jesus was born

21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Eight days after he was born – Mary and Joseph had the baby Jesus circumcised. Why on the 8th day ?

A)God had declared in the book of Leviticus that every male child was to be circumcised on the 8th day

B)Eight is the number of new beginnings and the birth of a baby is definitely the sign of a new beginning

C)Everything changes – wonderful – stressful – mesmerizing – just stare and agonizing all in one

1)You cast sleep – he won't stop crying- Time

But there is an even greater reason why God instructed his people to circumcise on the 8th day

A)Scientist have discovered – something God knew all along

B)Circumcision is be carried out on the eighth day after birth

1)It is of great medical importance

C)Because the level of vitamin K is the highest on the 8th day

1)and vitamin K plays a pivotal role in regulating and controlling the clotting factors in the coagulation of the blood - that helps in stopping bleeding.

D)Any sooner or later the baby could bleed to death as the vitamin K level is only at that level on the 8th day

E)So once again – Science is catching up with the Bible.

Think about this God says – Circumcise the child on the 8th day but he doesn't tell us why?

A)The Lord will often do that – he will give us a command or a direction but not give the full story

B)Why? He simply wants us to trust him -

C)Want a Great 2021 – Don't question God's word – Just follow His word!

We also note from our text that on that day the baby was given his official name - JESUS

A)“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:20, 21

B)The Name Jesus is Greek translation of Joshua which means Jehovah saves

C)The perfect name for this Baby as he came to save his people from their sins –

1)complete Salvation from Sin

Jesus saves us from the Penalty of Sin - Justification

A)Come to Jesus – Justified - Declared righteous

B)Sins forgiven and forgotten – Righteous in God's eyes - **Jesus saves from Penalty of sin - Justification**

Jesus also saves us from the power of sin - Sanctification –

A)Set apart and able to walk in a newness of life

B)Romans 8 more than conquerors..... loved us

C)Justification is the miracle of the moment - Sanctification is the process of a life time

1)Learning to walk in his Power

Jesus saves us from the Penalty of sin – Justification

A) He saves us from the power of sin - Sanctification

B) One day Jesus will one day save us from the presence of sin – Glorification –
1) we are with him in heaven – No more sin

C) None of the effects of sin – no more shame – no more sickness – no more death

D) That is the Hope that came to man at his birth

E) So Jesus was circumcised the 8th day – given his official name that spoke of his mission
1) He came to save and save completely

22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

A) Now we are 40 days from Christmas –

B) Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus are still living in Bethlehem at this time -

C) When a mother gave birth according to the law of Moses she was to take 40 days to heal /
1) rest and to bound with her baby

At the end of the 40 days the parents were to take a baby boy to the temple in Jerusalem

A) to be presented to the Lord – Baby dedication

B) And part of this dedication service - The parents were to offer a sacrifice to the Lord

C) The typical sacrifice was a lamb –
1) however if a couple was really poor/ they were allowed to offer two birds

D) Notice Mary and Joseph brought two birds – because they were really, really poor

E) That is the type of family that Jesus the Son of God was born into – very poor and needy family
1) From his very beginning as a human/ Jesus was put into a situation where he could identify with our struggles

But when you think about it – Mary and Joseph actually brought more than what was required

A) Yes they brought two birds but they also brought THE LAMB – the lamb of God

B) John the B. – Behold the lamb of God...world

C) So 40 days after his birth – Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem
1) To be dedicated to the Lord V.25

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

A) Interesting man Simeon - he was probably a retired priest which is why he is in the temple – giving blessings

B) Tradition says he was around 113 years old
1) Simeon means hearing and obeying

C) Notice what our text says about him - He was a just and devout man

He is just before men = he is a man of integrity

A) Devout before God- he is devoted to God – he is committed to God

B) He was waiting for the Consolation of Israel - Cap C

C) This is a Eschatological term meaning that He was waiting for a person –
1) See he is waiting for the coming of the Messiah

D) The one who will console and comfort and redeem the nation of Israel and really the whole world

So he is Waiting for and Looking for and Longing for the coming of Messiah

A) And I suggest to you that this is why he is just and devout man – He wanted to be ready

B) The Bible says that you and I as followers of Jesus are to also be Waiting for, Looking for, Longing for the coming of Messiah –

C) His coming for his church

D) If we are living as people who believe that Jesus could come at any moment

**1) we too will be people who are just toward men
And people who are Devoted to God**

E) Speaking of our waiting to be joined to JESUS

1) the apostle John declared 3:2,3

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **AMEN?** ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

PT. - If we truly believe that Jesus could come at any moment it is going to affect the way that we live

A) Our lives are going to be given to purity and not carnality

B) So Simeon whose name means hearing and obeying is described as a man who is a Just and Devout man

1) who is waiting FOR and longing FOR and looking FOR the coming of Messiah

C) And notice what it also says about him - V.25 and the Holy Spirit was upon him –

1) this is a guy who is full of the Holy Spirit

D) This is a guy who is in tune with the Holy Spirit

Great example for us-

A) In 2021 - may we be people who are waiting for/looking for/ longing for -coming of Jesus

B) People who are aware of the times we are living in

1) People who believe that time is short

C) People whose lives are marked a purity-integrity and devotion to God

D) And People who are full of the Holy Spirit

1) People who live Daily dependent on the Holy Spirit

E) People who are seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit

Now Simeon had been given a pretty radical revelation from the Lord about Messiah

26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,

According to Your word; 30 for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,

And the glory of Your people Israel." 33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

Simeon says this is a special baby –

A) He will bring light to the Gentiles and Glory to Israel

B) Interesting phrase why this baby would be the Hope of Israel and the Hope for the entire world

V.29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, ³⁰For my eyes have seen Your salvation

C) Our Hope has been born and his name is Jesus

And When Simeon realized that God promise of Hope for the world had been born he says

A) Now I can depart in peace

B) Only the Person who has had a True encounter w/ Jesus Christ – / embracing Him as Savior

1) Can say Lord *Now I can DEPART IN PEACE*

C) In essence – Simeon was saying – Now I can die in peace -That is what death is a DEPARTURE –

1) I am not afraid TO DIE!

But it is not just hope in death that Jesus assures us but purpose in life as well.

A) When Simeon says - now I can depart in peace – the word depart is a word pregnant with meaning

B)RELEASE A PRISONER :

1)The older we get the more this body becomes a prison – just can't do the things we used to do

C)Our mind remembers – what it used to be able to do – but the body doesn't respond / Prisoner

But the Apostle Peter – We have been born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus

A)Jesus beat death so death doesn't have to beat us

B)Paul – 1 Corinthians 15 – One day this mortal will put on immortality –

1) New bodies -No limitations – Hallelujah

C)The Prisoner will be released

But in reality – that starts the moment we give our lives to Jesus -

A)Luke 4:18 Jesus came to set captives free

B)Free from sin, guilt, shame, free from the bondage of sin

C)But the freedom we experience in this life walking with Jesus is merely the precursor – what is to come

Another definition for this word Depart is to unyoke a beast of burden.

A)This life is filled with many burdens –

B)And the beautiful thing is that NONE of those burdens follow us to heaven

1)Heaven is the Burden free zone

C)But we don't have to wait until heaven to start experiencing relief from our burdens

1)because Jesus gives this grand invitation –

D)In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says to weary and burdened people, come to me and you will find rest for your soul.

E)Jesus is the great burden bearer

Another definition of that word – Depart = to take down a tent.

A)The thing about tents is that they are temporary dwelling places – no one wants to permanently live in a tent

B)It is a reminder to us – that this life is temporal but that the life that is waiting for us with Jesus is eternal

C)Jesus challenges us now though to live with that eternal mindset

D)Jesus challenges us to live not for the temporal but for the eternal. Matthew 6

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19, 20

E)Live with eternity in view – Where your treasure is your heart will be also

My favorite definition of this word Depart is this one - to untie a Ship from the dock

A)I love to Kayak – exercise – Harbor at OCSD

B)I see so many boats that never leave the slip – always docked

1)That boat was not made for that –

C)It was made to get out into open water – sail – cruise – wind against the sail

So too – You and I have been made to live in relationship with God – experience God

A)Some of us live like that boat tied to the dock because we never – go deep - all surface

B)Or we never take steps of faith that allow God to show up

C)Jesus said in John 10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10

D)Abundant life is experienced when we press into Jesus – Draw near to me....you

E)Don't be content with surface Christian\ walk
1)Press in to Jesus

Abundant life happens when we take steps of faith with Jesus

A)Experience him meeting us in incredible moments

B)His grace is sufficient – his power is magnified in our weakness

1)In that we experience -Abundant life/ made for

C)Heaven becomes the culmination of that great life

1)The ship is really untied – we are living with no limitations and no regrets

So if you have had a true encounter with Jesus you can have the same that Hope that Simeon declared

A)Heart full of peace – and a future marked by blessing, adventure, and satisfaction

B)So Simeon starts by blessings God for his gift of Salvation -

1)Then he blesses Mary and Joseph V.34

34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Now I just have to say that is not what you want to hear as a mother at your sons baby dedication

A)If I did that- This child is going to cause you a lot of pain – like a sword piercing your heart

B)I am sure we would start getting request - can anyone else – but Pastor Rob... do our dedication

C)But what is interesting here is that Simeon this guy who was Waiting for, Looking.., Longing... Messiah

1)Devout man, Just man, a man full of the Holy Spirit –

D)He was clued into something that everyone else in Israel missed about the Messiah

1)The Messiah was going to suffer.

The People of Israel ignored those passages – suffering messiah

A)Missed that two comings – the first was as a lamb – ransom for many – a Savior

B)His 2nd coming will be as a lion – he will come to conquer –

C)The first coming was necessary for our Salvation

1)For forgiveness – and so we can experience abundant life

D)But it is in his 2nd coming that we will see his full redemption – Everything made right and new

But Simeon has this insight about this baby – he was born to die

A)He was born to go from the crib to the Cross To save man from our sins

There is one more event that happened after the birth of Jesus that I would like to quickly touch on

A)That is the coming of the wise men

B)Misnomers – Songs says 3 but we don’t know how many – 3 gifts

C)Not at the Stable – didn’t see Jesus in the manger

1)Nativity sets are all wrong

¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. Matthew 2:11

D)House not a cave or stable

1)Young child = toddler – 2 yrs old

E)Mary and Joseph stayed in Bethlehem a while Possibly 2 years

These wise men come and had the most odd response to any toddler

A)They worshipped and brought gifts

B)Worship is the proper response in coming before Jesus – King of kings

C)3 Intriguing gifts

➤ **Gold – a gift for a King – again odd**

➤ **Frankincense was a gift fitting for a priest**

D)Jesus was a Kingly High priest

1)Capable of understanding what it’s like to live as a human in this fallen world

E)Capable of helping us – navigate it – victoriously

Third gift was Myrrh

A) Myrrh was an anointing oil used for embalming the dead.

B) Odd gift – for a baby -But He was born to die

1) a Cross was in his future

C) Mary would stand at the foot of the Cross

watching her son die

1) The Sword would pierce her soul

D) But the death of her son would be her salvation and ours as well.

We in response are called to worship Jesus and give him the only gift he really desires – Our hearts