



IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

Luke 2:25–50

²⁵And 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.

²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷So 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, ²⁸he 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; ³⁰for my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³²a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

³³And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴Then 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."

³⁶Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

³⁹So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

⁴¹His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³When they

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As a godly couple, Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for the major feasts as commanded in Exodus 23:17 and Deuteronomy 16:16. Usually they would attend these feasts traveling with a large company of people.

had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; ⁴⁴but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

—Luke 2:25–50

Read Luke 2:25–50

Have you ever been so caught up in the busyness of life, seeking to obey God, serving the Lord, that you actually forgot Jesus? If we are honest with ourselves, God, and others, we all must answer, "Yes!" Why? Because it can happen to any of us without realizing it. We can become overly preoccupied with all the daily demands that are either placed upon us or that we place upon ourselves. Life on earth requires financial, social, and physical obligations that consume our time and energy. Unfortunately, this is often how we treat our spiritual activity. We relegate our spiritual service to the place of demands rather than allowing it to be a response to the goodness, glory, and grace of Jesus. What used to be a joy, leading us to marvel at the goodness, glory, and grace of God, turns into one more obligation. This is when we have lost Jesus.

Don't be too hard on yourself when this happens. Remember the same thing happened to Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of Jesus. When they visited the temple with Jesus on the first occasion, they were engrossed with the wonder

of God speaking to them through the prophets Simeon and Anna. However, twelve years later, in their custom of going for Passover, they lost Jesus. They supposed that He was with them, but failed to realize that they had left without Him. Mary and Joseph had to retrace their steps and then search throughout Jerusalem until they found Him. Jesus was right where He was supposed to be, doing what He was called to do.

The church of Ephesus also became overly occupied in their service to Jesus—even to the exclusion of Jesus. When the Lord spoke to them, He said, *you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works* (Revelation 2:3–5). This is a warning to all of us.

Use the lesson this week to take inventory of your own heart to make sure that Jesus is in your house!

1. Describe Simeon. Luke 2:25

2. Use Luke 2:26–35 to answer the following questions concerning Jesus' first visit to His Father's earthly house:
 - a. What had been revealed to Simeon?

 - b. Why were Jesus and His parents in the temple?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Consolation comes from the Greek word *Paraklesis*, and is also translated “comfort.” This is the hope that God would come to rescue and deliver His people.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It was not so much that Simeon foretold new things about Jesus that made Joseph and Mary marvel; their surprise was rather that a stranger should possess so deep an insight into the lofty destinies of an unknown Infant brought by poor parents into the temple court.

- c. What did Simeon do?
 - d. What did Simeon pray?
 - e. What were Joseph's and Mary's reactions?
 - f. What did Simeon prophesy to Mary?
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- 3. What do you learn from Luke 2:36–38 about:
 - a. Anna
 - b. What Anna did
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- 4. Share any insights you have from Luke 2:39–40 about:
 - a. Mary and Joseph
 - b. Jesus

5. Note and comment on the following using Luke 2:41–48:

- a. The time of year
- b. Mary's and Joseph's custom
- c. Jesus' age
- d. Jesus' activity
- e. Mary's and Joseph's activity
- f. Mary's and Joseph's search
- g. Where they found Jesus
- h. The reaction of those who heard Jesus
- i. Mary's and Joseph's reaction

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mary and Joseph were going to the temple, according to the law, to offer a sacrifice for their newborn Son. According to the Law of Moses, the firstborn child was to be presented at the temple with an offering to the Lord of a lamb; two turtledoves or young pigeons were accepted if they did not have the financial means to bring a lamb. (See also Luke 2:21–24 and Leviticus 12.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus was the normal age when a son would begin to apprentice with his father in his trade. By doing this, he was declaring His identity as God's Son.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In verse 49, we read the first recorded words of Jesus.

6. Use Luke 2:48–50 to share your insights concerning the dialogue between Mary and Jesus:
 - a. Verse 48
 - b. Verse 49
 - c. Verse 50
7. What is your greatest takeaway concerning Jesus in His Father's house?