

Seeing the Savior | Christmas Eve

Luke 2:25-33 | Ryan Pfeiffer | December 24, 2024

INTRO. We're going deep tracks- Xmas Story... past the angels, Star, Magi...

PPT. 40 dys after Jesus' birth Mary/ Joseph traveled 6mi Beth—> Jeru to take Jesus to the Temple—> dedicated

While they were there something unexpected happened. **READ LUKE 2:25-33.**

Simeon has this incredibly personal experience with Jesus... holds him!

Then Simeon says something... v30 "For my eyes have seen your salvation"

This advent we've been reflecting on God's gifts of hope, peace, joy & love.

But the greatest gift of all is the gift of salvation... That comes from seeing Jesus with our own eyes.

Not simply thru eyes of someone else... but a personal encounter w/Jesus.

Simeons experience with Jesus is for all of us...

James 4:8 Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

FOCUS: To see Jesus' salvation for ourselves we need to take 3 steps toward GOD.

EXPECTATION. v25 He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

Simeon had the LAW of God, the Temple, the rituals... but still... there was something more he needed...

ILLUS. Friend Payson... went away for summer... came back... different... something had changed... when I pressed... "I got saved... I follow Jesus".

Saved? What does that mean!? Over the weeks I began to see that he knew Jesus in a personal way... it affected his personal life... done partying...

It dawned on me... I didn't know Jesus like that.

For me Jesus was best kept at church... 1/qtr... holidays... a tradition...

It's safe to say I had ZERO expectation that I could know Jesus personally.

That's what Simeons experience reveals...

Christmas is about God coming to earth to get personal with us... not from a distance... not just thru a book...

That year I began to ask God to show himself to me... "God if you're real..."

WAITING on God- about living w/ expectation God wants to reveal himself

The moment we embrace the desire to know God... Holy Spirit gets to work

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(R) Are you living with an expectation God wants to reveal himself to you?

REVELATION. v26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

The Magi had the star, Shepherds and Mary/ Joe had angels... Simeon...

The Holy Spirit is the key to this whole process for Simeon and for us.

The Holy Spirit is the one who REVEALS Jesus to our hearts...

John 15:26 I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth... he will testify about me.

It's the Spirit who makes Jesus real to us and opens our eyes to see him.

ILLUS. The Spirit began to reveal Jesus to me...

- Through reading the Bible with my friend...
- I began having spiritual conversations with my friend...
- I started grow in my hunger to know God personally.
- A growing sense of urgency/ confidence that God was moving toward me

The Spirit showed me my barriers to seeing Jesus weren't intellectual...

I was afraid of how seeing Jesus would change my life.

My step of faith was to RECEIVE/accept what the Spirit was showing me...

I prayed... "God if you're better than _____ show me. I want to know you"

PARTICIPATION. v27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

This simple phrase is so powerful... **MOVED BY THE SPIRIT...**

The Spirit moves us thru: our inner voice... our conscience... our curiosity... our pain... that inner impulse that nudges us toward God.

"We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*.

This day... the Spirit nudged Simeon to go to the Temple...

When the Spirit moves us our part is to respond and obey.

Participating with the Spirit is how God shows himself to us.

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ILLUS. I had been going to Church with my friends for a while...

1. But there was a day when the speaker gave a call to faith...
2. The Spirit began to stir my heart... "What about you Ryan? Why not you?"

PPT At Christmas... even if the gift is purchased and wrapped and delivered... it has to be opened for it to make a difference...

Romans 12:9 Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.

Salvation is knowing Jesus personally... accepting his death on the cross for our sin... it's believing that he was raised from the dead...

INVITE BAND.

What are you waiting for this Christmas!?

Simeon lived with an expectation of seeing God... What are you waiting for?

Waiting for love, for graduation, for healing, for this service to be done?

Isaiah 30:18 Yet the Lord still waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love; he will conquer you to bless you, just as he said... Blessed are all those who wait for him to help them.