



Daily Reflections

December 29, 2017

Scripture

Luke 2:22-35

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation

which you prepared in the sight of every people,
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;
and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
"Behold, this child is destined
for the fall and rise of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be contradicted
(and you yourself a sword will pierce)
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's special celebration within the Christmas season is known as "The Presentation in the Temple." Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph reveal their obedience to the Jewish Law by taking the Baby Jesus into the Temple precincts to perform the required rituals according to the dictates of the Law. But another and more profound revelation occurs as they are exiting the Temple area. Simeon, an old, faithful Prophet utters the truth about the Baby. He will become a "sign of contradiction". By His words and actions He will call people to make a most important choice, for or against the Kingdom of God. And those closest to Him, especially His dear Mother, will pay a tremendous price simply because they love Him. What a thing to say about a sweet, innocent Baby!

Food for your Journey

Today in Yellow Springs, Ohio, people are still receiving Christmas presents from ex-slave Wheeling Gaunt, who was born in 1812 and who died in 1894. Just before he died, he deeded nine acres of land at the south edge of the village to the town of Yellow Springs, the proceeds of which were to buy perpetual Christmas gifts for "poor widows," which the village continues to do to this day. Ten pounds of flour and 10 pounds of sugar arrive at the home of every widow in town just in time for holiday baking, thanks to this former slave.

The inscription on his plaque reads: "Not what you get, but what you give."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me all of the Grace I need to follow You faithfully and despite the cost. Help me as I prepare to enter a new year to be resolute in my commitment to You and Your Gospel. Amen.