



# Daily Reflections

**February 2, 2018**

---

## Scripture

### **Luke 2: 22-40**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus 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: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and glory for 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.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna,

the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was advanced in years,

having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,

and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple,

but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

And coming forward at that very time,

she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child

to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions

of the law of the Lord,

they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;

and the favor of God was upon him.

---

## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Today we commemorate the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

Because of the prophecy of Simeon this feast serves as a harbinger of the upcoming season of Lent. How so? As Simeon foretold, Jesus would be the cause for the “rise and fall of many.” Jesus and His proclamation of the Kingdom called people to make a decision for or against Him. Now is the time for us to examine our hearts to determine how we have made the most important decision we will ever make. Then, God be willing, we have something to bring to the Holy season of Lent.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

Sir William Osler is among the most highly esteemed physicians in modern medical history. It is said that one day he entered the pediatric ward of a London hospital and noted with delight the children who were playing at one end of the room. Then his gaze was drawn to one small girl who sat off to one side alone on her bed, a doll in her arms. She was clearly oppressed by feelings of loneliness.

A question about her to the head nurse brought the response that she was ostracized by the other children. Her mother was dead, Osler was told; her father had paid but one visit, bringing at that time the doll which she now tightly clutched. Apart from that one visit, no one had ever come to see her again. As a result, the other children, concluding that she was unimportant, had treated her with disdain.

Sir William was at his best in moments like that, and he immediately walked to the child's bed. "May I sit down, please?" he asked in a voice loud enough to carry to where the other children were at play. "I can't stay long on this visit, but I have wanted to see you badly." Those describing the moment say that the girl's eyes became electric with joy.

For several minutes the physician conversed with her, now in quiet, almost secretive tones. He inquired about her doll's health and appeared to be carefully listening to its heart with his stethoscope. And then as he rose to leave, his voice lifted again so that everyone heard, "You won't forget our secret, will you? And mind you, don't tell anyone." As Osler left the room, he turned to see the once-ignored youngster now the center of attention of every other child on the ward."

--Gordon MacDonald, *Restoring Your Spiritual Passion* (Nashville: Oliver Nelson, 1986), 137-38.

---

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, In the power of the Holy Spirit You call out to me to choose between You and the world. You have been so good to me in loving me and

laying down Your life for me. Help me to show my gratitude by giving my life  
in humble service to You. Amen