



Daily Reflections

February 2, 2019

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

Simeon's prophecy is so important. The Baby Jesus would grow up to proclaim the Gospel that would challenge those who heard Him to make a decision for or against the Kingdom of God. This is so in our own day. At times His words delight our ears, but at other times His words may threaten us or make us sad when we ponder the changes to which His words call us. It is important to always keep in mind that only Jesus has the words of everlasting life.

Food for your Journey

It's likely that if Jesus were still living among us today, He would be considered a criminal. Everyone would be mad at him ...

- The FDA for turning water into wine without a license;
- The EPA for killing fig trees;
- The American Medical Association for practicing medicine without a license;
- The Department of Health for asking people to open graves, for raising the dead and for feeding 5,000 people in un-sanitary conditions;
- The NEA for teaching without a certificate;
- OSHA for walking on water without a life jacket and other unsafe boating practices;
- SPCA for driving hogs into the sea;
- The National Board of Psychiatrists for giving advice on how to live a guilt-free life;
- The NOW for not choosing a female apostle;
- The Interfaith Movement for condemning all other religions.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Who likes change especially when change requires me to give up familiar and even comfortable ways of thinking and living? The status quo is easy. Lord, pour forth Your Grace upon me so that I may be motivated to seek and live Your way despite the cost. Amen