



Daily Reflections

February 2, 2020

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

Prophets were God’s spokespersons. They said what God called them to say. They were not necessarily polite but they were certainly truthful. Many paid dearly for the job of messenger. Simeon, was an old prophet. He waited his entire life for one favor from the Lord God: to get one glimpse of the promised Messiah. After the circumcision of the Baby Jesus, His Prayers were answered. Right there in front of his hungry eyes was the newborn Messiah, cradled in His Mother’s arms. I can only imagine how Simeon’s prophecy felt in the depths of Mary’s heart:

“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.”

Yes, he said that about HER cute, cuddly little baby boy! How could he? Me, pierced as with a Sword??? But Mary knew Simeon’s words were true because they were God’s words spoken to her through the lips of a crusty old prophet. And in time they were fulfilled....

Food for your Journey

Calvin Miller writes in *The Table of Inwardness* of an antique wooden dynamite box in his home. Crafted in the 19th century, the box was built to withstand the shock of moving its contents from the manufacturer to the field.

On the lid of the box were large red and black letters which read: "Danger! Dynamite!"

"But the last I saw it," Miller wrote, "it was filled with common paraphernalia that could be found in any workroom."

How many of us, designed by God to store and release tremendous creative energies, have settled for collecting "common paraphernalia" and are discharging scarcely any spiritual dynamite?

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You said many times that if I wish to be Your disciple I must be willing to pick up my cross EACH DAY and walk in Your footsteps. Lord, I am neither strong or courageous on my own. Please be with me to be my strength and courage during the rugged times of my Journey. Keep me faithful to You. Amen