



Daily Reflections

February 2, 2017

Scripture

Luke 2:22-35

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."

Our Scripture Reflection

Simeon's prophesy certainly came true when Our Lord began His public ministry. In every word He uttered and every gesture He performed He called people to make a decision, for or against Him. Each time we read a Gospel text prayerfully, Jesus is actively calling us to decision. May we choose well.

Food for your Journey

Flannery O'Connor was once asked why, in her short-story fiction, she created such freakish characters. She responded, "To the almost blind, you must draw very large, and to the almost deaf, you must shout loud."

—Mark A. Buchanan, "Rabbit trails to God," *Christianity Today*, July 2003, 44.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are The Way, The Truth and The Life. Help me to embrace my cross faithfully this day and to go wherever You call me to go. Amen.