
Advent 2021

Victory Life Church — Pastor Jacob Sheriff

“Awaken Wonder 4 – Waiting and Watching” – Week 4 – Wednesday December 26th, 2021

Luke 2:22-38 (MSG)

Luke 2:25-27a (MSG)

*In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the **prayerful expectancy** of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. **Led by the Spirit**, he entered the Temple...*

Luke 2:25 (ESV)

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*

Herodians, Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and Zealots

Prayerful expectancy precedes being led by the Spirit.

Luke 2:29-32 (MSG)

*“God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. **With my own eyes I’ve seen your salvation**; it’s now out in the open for everyone to see: A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel.”*

Old Testament References: Isaiah 40:5, Isaiah 42:6, Isaiah 46:13, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 52:9-10, Psalm 98:2, Isaiah 60:3, Isaiah 45:25.

Immersion in Scripture gives eyes to see Jesus for who He really is.

Luke 2:34-35 (MSG)

*Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother, This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel, A figure misunderstood and contradicted—the pain of a sword-thrust through you— But the rejection will force honesty, **as God reveals who they really are.***

Luke 2:34-35 (ESV)

*And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for **the fall and rising** of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”*

How we respond to Jesus shows us who we really are.

Luke 2:36-38 (MSG)

*Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, **worshipping night and day with her fastings and prayers.** At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to **all who were waiting expectantly** for the freeing of Jerusalem.*

Worshipping with Fasting and Praying makes us ready for encountering Jesus.

Titus 2:11-14 (NLT)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.