

# enJOY Christmas

## Worth the Wait

### Luke 1:5-2:20

**Christmas –**  
the birth of Christ –  
is good news of great joy for all the people!

That statement, from the angels declaration in Luke 2:10, in many ways serves as the anchor to the birth narratives of Luke 1-2 and to this series we have been calling enJoy Christmas. We all want joy... and God wants us to have it!

**1. Promises: The anticipation of Joy – Luke 2:25-26**  
How can God's promises bring joy into my life?

**2. Obedience: The path to Joy – Luke 2:27a**  
How does obedience lead me to joy?

**3. Contentment: The culmination of Joy – Luke 2:29-38**  
Is joy found in having more or in needing less?

# Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

## **Monday** - Pay attention to Luke 2:25

Simeon was looking for the restoration of Israel. God had promised him that he would not die until he had seen it. He will see the promise of God become a reality in the baby Jesus. I wonder how many times he doubted it? Or how many times he had to go back and refer to those promises again to find strength? Throughout the many years he had lived we can only imagine how many difficulties he experienced, the many challenges he faced and the many failures he had. What kept him going? I believe he found anticipated joy in the promises of God. Simeon was waiting on God's promise that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah... that's why he walked to the temple... he found joy in trusting.

Do you need to find joy in God's promises? Start by remembering some of them.

## **Tuesday** - Pay attention to Luke 2:26

How does the promise bring you joy? Do you remember when you were a kid and mom or dad promised something to you? The preparation for what was promised, the anticipation in your heart, the excitement as time drew near... A promise brings joy by focusing your attention on what is to come and not on what is here today. Peter said that by the promises of God we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4). I can imagine Simeon walking everyday to the temple waiting with expectation for the arrival of the Messiah. I could see him facing life's difficulties with hope in his heart... by focusing on what was ahead he found the power and the joy to continue trusting. His promises are a source of joy at all times.

Are you finding joy in any other place than God? Remember He is the Source of true Joy.

## **Wednesday** - Pay attention to Luke 2:27

Simeon came to the temple directed by the Holy Spirit. Scripture does not say or imply that God spoke directly to him about going, it doesn't say that an angel came to visit him, or that there was any sign about him going to the temple. He just went because he was being directed by the Spirit. Following directions is difficult, but following the direction of the Spirit involves not only obeying, but trusting. Like the old hymn said: "trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus..." Ultimate joy is found in obedience. When you come to a point in your life where you find joy in obeying God's will and commandments, you can be sure you have found the ultimate source of true joy and happiness.

Is obedience leading you to joy or is disobedience leading you to sorrow? "Trust and obey... for there's no other way!"

## **Thursday** - Pay attention to Luke 2:28-29

Most true blessings come in rough wrapping. Many times we don't recognize a God given blessing because it doesn't look like one when we receive it. I wonder how Simeon felt when he held baby Jesus in his arms. Was he puzzled? Did the baby meet all the expectations of old Simeon? It is easy to see that he was very happy to hold Jesus after reading his words in the same passage. Sometimes we are not content with our lives not because we don't have enough, but because we cannot see many of the blessings our Lord gives us. Simeon was able to see that this baby was the "Light of the nations." Simeon was ready to go home for he had seen the salvation of the Lord... wrapped in baby clothes!

Can you spot a blessing in your life wrapped in a rough package? Look again!

## **Friday** - Pay attention to Luke 2:36-38

I can't imagine myself alone for three days, let alone eighty-four years. In fact I can't imagine anyone alone for that long! But that was Anna. She had been a widow for eighty-something years. How did she do that? How did she manage to be alone for so many years? I believe Anna found a secret that gives strength not just to carry on with one's life, but also to finish well. She found complete satisfaction in the Lord. How do we know that? Well, her daily duties were worshipping and praying and fasting. Nobody does that for such a long time unless it leaves their soul satisfied! Most of us try to find satisfaction in a lot of things before we go to God (believe me, I do that all the time!). When we finally realize that he alone is the source of all satisfaction, we will stop looking somewhere else and come running to him... for eighty-something years!

Are you finding satisfaction in anything other than God? Come back to the fountain!