

# CHRISTMAS

## “JOY”

Luke 2:7, 11, 21-35



**It's Time to Sing for Joy!**

- ◆ **The Spirit of the Lord**
- ◆ **The Salvation of the Lord**
- ◆ **The Sacrifice of the Lord**

**“She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.” (Luke 2:15)**

**Bill Kirk**

# "CHRISTMAS JOY"

**Text:** Luke 2: 7, 11, 21-35

**Subject:** It's Time to Sing for Joy

## **Introduction**

There Are Five Christmas Songs in the Book of Luke

1. In Luke 1:42, Elizabeth sings out.
2. In Luke 1:46, Mary sings out.
3. In Luke 1:68, Zacharias sings out.
4. In Luke 2:13, Angels sing out.
5. In Luke 2:29, Simeon sings out.

**Question:** What are they singing about?

**Answer:** They're not singing:

- ◆ "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
- ◆ "Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire"
- ◆ "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"
- ◆ "Jingle Bells"
- ◆ "I'll Have a Blue Christmas Without You"

**Question:** What are they singing about?

**Answer:** They are singing about one thing:

"I bring you good tidings of great joy for all people, for unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

**Question:** Why are they so joyful in song?

**Answer:** Because the Savior they are hoping for has finally arrived.

**Question:** But what's so special about Simeon's song?

**Question:** What's it have to do with you and me?

**Question:** Why is it in your Bible and in your hands? (And)

**Question:** How does it minister to your heart today?

## **Grasp the setting of our text.**

- ◆ Caesar has ordered a census for military and tax purposes.
- ◆ The census forces Joseph and Mary to travel 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
- ◆ Jesus is born and placed in a manger (a feeding trough for cows)
- ◆ And in verses 22-24, three legal ceremonies are required and kept at the birth of Jesus.

## **What ceremonies have to take place?**

### **1. The Ceremony of Circumcision**

- ◆ Every Jewish boy was circumcised and named on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after their birth. (Leviticus 12:3, Luke 1:59-60)
- ◆ Circumcision symbolized the Jews separation from the Gentiles. (Genesis 17:9-14)
- ◆ So after eight days passed, Mary and Joseph take the child to be circumcised.

## **2. The Ceremony of Redemption**

- ◆ A firstborn son was presented to God one month after birth. (Exodus 13:2, 11-16; Numbers 18:15-16)
- ◆ The ceremony included buying back (redeeming) the child from God through an offering.
- ◆ This was the parent's acknowledging that the child belonged to God (who alone has the power to give life.)

## **3. The ceremony Of Purification**

- ◆ For 40 days after the birth of a son, and 80 days after the birth of a daughter, the mothers was ceremonially unclean.
- ◆ Mom could not enter the temple.
- ◆ So Mary and Joseph bring an offering (a lamb for a burnt offering, and a dove for a sin offering).
- ◆ The priest would sacrifice the animals and declare the woman to be clean.
- ◆ This is what Mary and Joseph do (and it is the setting of our text in Luke 2).

### **The question is:**

- ◆ Why is Simeon so joyful and what right do you have to be so joyful today?

## **I. The Spirit of the Lord**

**Question:** How do you know the Holy Spirit is drawing you to Jesus today?

### **Notice**

(Verse 25) "There was a man names Simeon, waiting for the Messiah, **and the Holy Spirit was upon him.**"

(Verse 26) "And it was revealed to Simeon **by the Holy Spirit**, that he wouldn't die, until he had seen the Lord."

(Verse 27) "And Simeon was **led by the Spirit** into the temple."

**Question:** Why was Simeon led into the temple?

**Answer:** (Verse 27) Because the parents of Jesus were bringing in the baby at that exact time.

### **In Other Words**

- ◆ Like the Holy Spirit drew the shepherds to Jesus,
- ◆ Like the Holy spirit drew the wise men to Jesus,
- ◆ Like the Holy Spirit drew the angels to Jesus,
- ◆ The Holy Spirit draws Simeon to Jesus.

### **Why now?**

- ◆ Because Simeon is about to die, but the Holy Spirit told him (years before) that he wouldn't die until he had seen the baby Jesus.

### **In Other Words**

**Question:** Why could Simeon be led by the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** (Verse 25) "Simeon was just, devout and waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

## Why led by the Spirit?

1. He was "just"
  - o The word "just" (DIKAIOS) means: "well behaved, or living as one should live."
2. He was "devout"
  - o The word "devout" (EULABES) means: "reverent in his relationship with God."
3. He was "patient"
  - o Waiting for the coming Messiah along with other believing Jews.

**Question:** What enables you to be led by the Holy Spirit?

1. Simeon lives in **obedience** (in behavior).
2. Simeon lives in **devotion** (day after day).
3. Simeon lives in **faith** (waiting patiently for God to fulfill His promise to him).

**Question:** What's the application?

**Answer:** While Simeon is obeying God as any other day, the Holy Spirit leads Joseph and Mary to the exact place where Simeon is.

### In Other Words

- ◆ The Holy Spirit knows more than you do (and God is faithful to keep His promise to you).
- ◆ As the Holy Spirit was drawing Simeon to Jesus, likewise, the Holy Spirit is drawing you close to Jesus today.
- ◆ As the Holy Spirit led Simeon, the Holy Spirit will lead you.
- ◆ And this is something to sing and rejoice about!

### Why so important?

- ◆ Because Simeon has no idea that this is the day when his prayer will be answered.
- ◆ All he is doing is obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit (on his end) by slipping into the sanctuary.
- ◆ And he discovers that God is keeping His promise (on the other end) as Jesus comes into the sanctuary).

### In other words beloved,

- ◆ God is doing something in your life today (right now).
- ◆ But God is also working and going before (or ahead of you) to reward your obedience.

### In Other Words

- ◆ If I obey God today, I will receive His promise for me tomorrow.
- ◆ If I refuse to obey God, I will forfeit what He has in waiting for me down the road.
- ◆ As Simeon said "yes" to the leading of the Holy Spirit,
- ◆ Joy comes to us when we say yes to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

## What else can you sing about?

### #1. The Spirit of the Lord

## I. The Salvation of the Lord

**Question:** What does Simeon do when he sees the baby Jesus?

**Answer:** He reveals the glorious news:

(In V. 28) "He takes Jesus up in his arms."

(In V. 29) "He can now depart in peace."

(In V. 30) He sings out "**For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which God has prepared for all people**"

**Question:** Why is Simeon so fulfilled?

**Answer:** He understands that Jesus is the only way that he can be saved.

- ◆ Regardless of who he was,
- ◆ What he's done,
- ◆ Where he's been or
- ◆ Regardless of any sin.

Jesus was born to forgive and to save every person who would ask Him.

In V.34, Simeon says "This child is set for the fall and rising of many" (Which means)

- ◆ Some would choose to trust Him and be saved. (They are those who **rise**)
- ◆ Others would choose to ignore Him and stumble. (They are those who **fall**)

**Question:** How many of you would rather rise and enjoy living, instead of fall and stumble and suffer through life without Jesus? Verse 34 is a conviction call.

- ◆ Simeon can't depart in peace until he meets Jesus.
- ◆ Simeon isn't ready to die, until he meets Jesus.
- ◆ Simeon knows Christmas isn't Christmas until he sees his own personal salvation (in Jesus).

#### **And Simeon knows something.**

1. Some will submit to Jesus and rise upward and,
2. Some will say "no" to Jesus and fall downward.

#### **Verse 34 is an incredible Christmas invitation.**

"Behold, this Child is set for (what?)

1. "The fall of many" (and)
2. "The rise of many."

**Question:** Why is this so provoking to us?

**Answer:** Because we are presented with a choice of one or two ways to go through life.

#### **Choice #1 is Falling.**

**Question:** Who are the falling?

**Answer:** The falling are those who reject and ignore the salvation of Jesus.

- ◆ The falling choose not to humble themselves.
- ◆ The falling choose not to turn from sin.
- ◆ The falling choose not to ask for forgiveness.
- ◆ The falling choose not to take the step forward.

- ◆ The falling chose not to choose to live for Jesus.

**Question:** What's the consequence of this choice?

**Answer:** Falling and stumbling because of God being kept on the outside of your life.

### **Choice #2 is Rising.**

**Question:** Who are the rising?

**Answer:** The risers are those who receive the salvation that Jesus came to bring.

- ◆ The risers have a foundation.
- ◆ The risers have a chief cornerstone.
- ◆ The risers have made a choice, to accept and receive the gift of salvation.

**Question:** What's the consequence of this choice?

**Answer:** You rise above every circumstance in this life, and you rise eternally in the next life.

### **What else can you sing about?**

## **III. The Sacrifice of the Lord**

**Question:** What produces great joy during the Christmas season?

**Answer:** Knowing the reason and the sacrifice behind the birth of Jesus.

### **Notice Verse 35**

"Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also."

### **In other words Mary**

- ◆ "The baby you hold will be rejected and crucified."
- ◆ "Your heart will be pierced Mary, because Jesus will endure the cross."
- ◆ Great sorrow is ahead Mary, because your Son is on a mission."

**Question:** What gives you great cause to rejoice deep down inside today?

**Answer:** Knowing it was for you that Jesus walked the Calvary road.

### **In Other Words**

- ◆ Christmas is a great time to ponder what it cost for our salvation.
- ◆ Christmas is a great time to sing of the mercy and saving grace of God.
- ◆ Christmas is a great time to pause and say "thank you for the cross".

**Question:** Why such joyful singing here today?

### **Because,**

1. All have sinned and come short of God's expectation.
2. No one here can save themselves.
3. God sent His Son to carry my judgment.
4. The Son willfully gave His life to purchase our eternal life, and
5. We shout and sing because, twas on that old cross, Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me!

### **What else can we sing about?**

## **IV. The Searching of the Lord**

**Question:** What are Simeon's final words? (Notice)

**Answer:** (V.35) "A sword shall pierce through your own soul Mary, **that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."**

**Question:** What is Simeon ending with here?

**Answer:** The fact that Jesus (the Christ child) will reveal the thoughts of your heart and mine!

### **In Other Words**

- ◆ The Lord turns the light on inside each of us.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit talks to us personally.
- ◆ The Word convicts us of our shortcomings.
- ◆ We see ourselves as we really are, and run to the Sacrifice for cleansing, restoration, joy and power!

### **Conclusion**

**Question:** What's the only right response to the Spirit, Salvation, Sacrifice and Searching of the Lord?

### **Verse 29**

"Lord, let now your servant depart in peace."

- ◆ The word Lord (DESPOT) means "owner".
- ◆ The word servant means "bondslave".

**Question:** Why is Simeon so joyful?

1. He's made Jesus Lord (or absolute owner of his life).
2. He's offered himself as a bondslave (or total submission to the Lordship of Jesus).

**Question:** Have you done that?

**Question:** Have you surrendered in absolute submission to the Lordship of Jesus?

**Question:** Do you want to depart in peace today?

**Question:** Are you willing to come God's way (surrendered) so you can enjoy the inward peace of Christmas?

### **Remember,**

- ◆ There is only one proper response to all that God has done for you.
- ◆ There is only one right choice to make in light of God's amazing grace.
- ◆ There is only one step to make to experience the supernatural at work in your life.

**Question:** What's the step?

**Answer:** 1. Make Christ the Lord of your heart and,  
2. Make yourself the servant to His Lordship.

Amen!  
Bill Kirk

#1. The Spirit of the Lord

#3. The Sacrifice of the Lord

#2. The Salvation of the Lord

#4. The Searching of the Lord