

LUKE 2:21-40

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “**The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”
- **LUKE 1:5-25 - THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST...**
 - Zacharias & Elizabeth - had no children - and they were now very old...
 - The Angel Gabriel came to Zacharias in the Temple - they would give them a son - John
- **LUKE 1:26-56 - THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS...**
 - Jesus had humble beginning - the Angel Gabriel came to Mary in the city of Nazareth...
 - Nothing is impossible with God - Virgin birth - Mary would bear a son Jesus - Immanuel!
- **LUKE 1:57-80 - THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST...**
 - Elizabeth and Zacharias named their newborn son - John - God is gracious...
 - He would be the greatest of all prophets - he would point people to the rising sun - Jesus!
- **LUKE 2:1-20 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS...**
 - 1st - According to the Word of God **Micah 5:2** - Jesus was born in Bethlehem (*Roman census*)...
 - 2nd - The Passover Lamb - Jesus was born in a manger - born to die for the sins of man...
 - 3rd - The angels announced Jesus' birth to an unusual audience - simple shepherds...
 - The least likely of all men - so that God would get the glory when he gave the message...
 - The shepherds went out and told everyone / anyone that Jesus had been born!

THE DEDICATION OF JESUS (3 THINGS)... vs. 21-40

- **1ST - FOLLOWING JESUS EXAMPLE - CIRCUMCISION AND DEDICATION... vs. 21-24**
 - Everything that Jesus did - His entire life - is an example for us to follow...
 - **As we are going through the Gospels we must remember Jesus' life is our example...**
 - **Everything He did and said teaches us how we are to live our lives...**
 - Following Jesus in circumcision...
 - After 8 days Jesus was circumcised...
 - According to the command God gave to Abraham in **Genesis 17:7-14**...
 - Every Jewish male had to be circumcised on the 8th day - symbol of God's Covenant...
 - A strange sign for a covenant/promise with God - but it was symbolic...
 - It was a picture - showing the cutting away the sinful desires of the heart...
 - *** Colossians 2:11** – “**When you came to Christ, you were ‘circumcised,’ but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the cutting away of your sinful nature.**”
 - **Before we came to Jesus we did what our sin wanted us to – we were slaves to sin...**
 - **We did not think about Jesus – how to live for Jesus – how to live a righteous life...**
 - **But when we accepted Jesus Christ – we died to that old sinful nature...**
 - **The sinful desires of our heart were cut off – so we were free to live for the Lord!**
 - *** Romans 6:6** – “**Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.**”
 - **Did you ever wonder why sins bother you now when they did not used to...**

- It used to be if you lied, or cheated, or were mean to others – it did not matter...
- Yet now these things bother you – cause you have been circumcised in your heart...
- You are no longer bound to sin – but free to love and trust Jesus with all your heart...
- That change of heart – circumcision of the heart – is the sign that you are God's child
- At the circumcision - His name was called Jesus...
 - Like with John - it was Jewish tradition to name your sons on the 8th day...
 - 'Jesus' was not a unique name - lots of little Jewish boys were given the name Jesus...
 - It is the same name as 'Joshua' - who led Israel into the Promised Land...
 - The name Jesus (*Yashua in Hebrew*) - abbreviation of Yahweh~Shua - God is salvation!
 - In His name was His purpose - God became a man to free us from the bondage of sin!
- o Following Jesus in being dedicated to the Lord (*3 things*)...
 - 1st - Jesus was taken to the temple and dedicated to the Lord...
 - According to **Leviticus 12:1-8** - a woman was 'unclean' for 40 days after having a son...
 - At the end of those 40 days she was to go to the temple - to offering sacrifices...
 - A lamb as a burnt offering / and a bird as a sin offering to the Lord...
 - Mary and Joseph were poor - they could not afford a lamb for the sacrifice...
 - Instead they brought two birds - the offering God allowed for those who were poor...
 - We often assume God cannot relate to our lives - understand our problems...
 - How could God possibly understand what its like to be poor - not have enough to eat
 - Yet Jesus came from a VERY poor family - many days where there was not enough rice...
 - Meaning He understands - and is not only able - He is more than willing to help us!
 - 2nd - According to **Exodus 12:2** - the 1st born son had to be redeemed...
 - When God brought the 10th and final plague on Egypt – the Death Angel...
 - God spared all of the 1st born sons of Israel through the blood of the lamb...
 - In effect He purchased those sons (*both men and animals*) by saving them...
 - Therefore every 1st born male animal had to be offered as a sacrifice to the Lord...
 - Every 1st born son had to be redeemed - a sacrifice offered in his place...
 - It seems an odd command – always having to sacrifice or redeem the 1st born sons...
 - But it was meant to be a picture that pointed us to our need for Jesus...
 - We were all condemned to death because of sin - eternal separation from God...
 - In order for us to live - the 1st born 'Son of God' had to die in our place...
 - 3rd - Dedicating our children to the Lord...
 - The dedication of Jesus to God - is where we get the idea of dedicating our kids...
 - Our children are a gift from God - we only have them for a short time...
 - **I Samuel 1:27-28** - "I asked the LORD to give me this child, and he has given me my request. I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life."
 - o As parents it is our opportunity - responsibility - to teach them about God...
 - o We dedicate our children to the Lord - not for their sakes - but for ours...
 - o We make a vow before God - to teach our children to know and follow Jesus!
 - **Proverbs 22:6** – "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."
 - o Therefore we are to train up our children - teach them about Jesus...
 - o They ultimately have to make their own choice - but we give them the foundation

- **Ephesians 6:4** – “And now a word to you fathers. Don’t make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.”
 - Not just in words - but in our actions - our children will follow in our footsteps
 - Especially fathers - dads you set the example your children will follow...
 - Recent study - if Mom & Dad attend church, 72% of their children remain faithful
 - If only the Dad, 55% remain faithful / If the only Mom, 15%
 - If neither attended regularly - only 6% remain faithful to following the Lord!
- **2ND - THE EXAMPLE OF SIMEON & ANNA... VS. 25-38**
 - While Jesus was there at the Temple being dedicated - two people met Him - Simeon & Anna...
 - Simeon - (*5 things*)... vs. 25
 - 1st - A man who listened to the Lord - the name Simeon name means ‘listening’...
 - 2nd - A righteous man - he did his utmost to live according to the commands of God...
 - 3rd - A devoted man - he dedicated his life to serving and following God...
 - 4th - A patient man - he had been waiting for years to see the savior - Messiah...
 - 5th - A man always full (*imperfect*) of the Holy Spirit...
 - Simeon’s godly characteristics enabled him to see/know things others missed...
 - The example of Simeon (*4 things*)...
 - 1st - Simeon saw Jesus...
 - Simeon took up the baby Jesus in the curve of his arms - and began to bless God...
 - Where others only saw a little baby boy - Simeon saw the Messiah...
 - His eyes had seen ‘God’s Salvation’ - a neat play of words - Jesus name...
 - Simeon saw Jesus because he was patient to wait for the Lord...
 - We all want to see Jesus working in our lives - but are we patiently waiting...
 - We tend to be in a rush - we want God to provide/heal now - we don’t want to wait...
 - When things don’t happen in our timing - we turn to someone else to get what we want
 - It is when we learn to wait upon the Lord - we will see Jesus work in our lives!
 - 2nd - Simeon knew God was faithful to His Word...
 - Lord - you are letting your servant depart in peace - according to your Word...
 - God had promised Simeon he would see the Messiah - and here he was holding Jesus!
 - Simeon knew God was faithful to His Word - because he took the time to listen...
 - God is always going to be faithful to His Word - but often we are not listening...
 - If we never spend time in God’s Word - if we are not listening to the Lord...
 - We will never hear from God - never learn that God is faithful to His Word!
 - 3rd - Simeon knew God came to save the world...
 - Jesus would be a light to the Gentiles - the savior for ALL people...
 - The common concept of the Messiah - was He would be the savior for just Israel...
 - Simeon understood what no one up to that point did - Jesus came to save the world!
 - That is why - Joseph and Mary marveled at these words of Simeon...
 - God did not come to just save the Jews - He came so we could all go to heaven!
 - 4th - Simeon knew Jesus came to die...
 - Simeon told Mary - ‘Many will reject Jesus - but He will be the greatest joy to others’...
 - Jesus would reveal the deepest thoughts of the hearts of men...
 - Jesus came to convict the World - to show men their sin - and need for a savior...

- o Jesus would test the hearts of men - through the message of the cross...
 - The sword that would pierce Mary to the very soul...
 - o Speaking of Jesus crucifixion on the cross - Mary would watch her 'Son' die...
 - o **Matthew 10:34** - "I did not come to bring peace but a sword."
 - o The cross makes you either stand for Jesus – or against Him – it divides..
 - o No middle ground – no grey – if you are not for Him then you're against Him...
- o Anna - (3 things)...
 - 1st - She was a prophet - daughter of Phanuel (*face of God*) - from the tribe of Asher...
 - There are 6 women in the Bible who are given the title Prophet...
 - But Anna is the ONLY woman given the title in the New Testament...
 - 2nd - She was REALLY old...
 - Like most women of the day she likely married young - perhaps 15 or 16...
 - But her husband died after only being married for 7 years...
 - Then she had either been a widow for 84 years - making her about 106 years old...
 - Or it could also read she was now an 84 year old widow - either way - VERY old!
 - 3rd - She was a true widow...
 - * **I Timothy 5:5** - "A true widow, one who is truly alone in this world, has placed her hope in God. Night and day she asks God for help and spends much time in prayer."
 - She did not depart from the Temple - she served God say and night (*prayers & fasting*)
 - Because Anna was always in the Temple - constantly hanging out with the Lord...
 - She was there in the Temple just as Jesus was being dedicated - told everyone about Jesus!
- o The example of Anna...
 - Here is a woman who had a tragic life - and was now VERY old and feeble...
 - Yet because she dedicated herself to the Lord - Prophet - always with the Lord...
 - She saw Jesus - and God used her to spread the Good news to anyone who would listen!
 - No matter what we have been through - or what how old or un-talented we think we are...
 - As we give ourselves wholly dedicate ourselves to the Lord - spend time with the Lord...
 - God will reveal Himself to us - and use us to share the Good News with others!
- 3RD - FULFILLING THE LAW... VS. 39-40
 - o When Joseph and Mary finished everything the Law required...
 - It was very important - from birth - that Jesus wholly fulfilled the requirements of the Law
 - Jesus came as a man – 'in the flesh' as it were – yet lived a perfect sinless life...
 - Jesus did what no one else could– He fulfilled the righteous requirement of God's Law...
 - Then Jesus – the only perfect man – paid the price for our sin – Death – **Romans 6:23**...
 - In that moment Jesus condemned sin – defeated the death once and for all!
 - Then came one of the great mysteries of the ages – God gave us Jesus' righteousness!
 - * **II Corinthians 5:21** – "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."
 - In Jesus – we have lived a perfect life – we have fulfilled the requirement of the Law...
 - So now when God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes/flaws...
 - He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect/flawless!
 - o Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth...
 - Luke doesn't give us the story of their flight to Egypt to escape King Herod - **Matthew 2:23**
 - Just as Luke does not record the coming of the wise men to see Jesus...

- Yet none of the other Gospels tell us about Zacharias & Elizabeth or Simeon & Anna...
- That is why it is so important to read all 4 account of the life of Jesus...
- Each gives us a slightly different perspective - together giving us the whole picture!
- o Jesus grew - and became strong in Spirit - filled with wisdom - the Grace of God upon Him...