

They Waited, He Came, There was Rejoicing

Luke 2. 21-40

On 31 December 2017@ Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya

Way In

What was it like for you when awaiting for the arrival of your loved one?

Luke 2. 21-40 – A delightful and inspiring story of waiting leading to great rejoicing.

Waiting that bears these contents:

1. Righteous and devout life, led by the Holy Spirit - **Simeon**
 2. Pains of life that bear fruit in worship, prayer and fasting - **Anna**
 3. Obedience of laws requirements – **Joseph & Mary as a family**
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1. Simeon – 2.25-35
 - 1.1 Simeon's waiting:
 - 1.1.1 Righteous and devout while “waiting for the consolation of Jerusalem”
 - 1.1.2 The Holy Spirit was upon him, he was moved by the Holy Spirit
 - 1.2 Simeon's rejoicing:
 - 1.2.1 Promise of God for Jerusalem fulfilled
 - 1.2.2 Personal promise for him fulfilled
 2. Anna, prophetess, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher – 2.36-38
 - 2.1 Anna's waiting:
 - 1.2.1 Long widowhood
 - 1.2.2 Never left the temple – day and night in worship
 - 1.2.3 Life of fasting and prayer
 - 2.2 Anna's thanksgiving
 - 2.1.2 Spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Redemption of Jerusalem has to do with the reception of the child)
 3. Joseph and Mary -2.21-24; 39-40
Cf: Leviticus 12.1-8, Exodus 13.2.12,15.

Luke 2.40. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

Over to us as a community of people –

In anticipation of God's redemption and great work amongst us – will you be there when 'God shows up'?

Will we wait like Simeon, Anna and Joseph and Mary as a family? Will we sing a new song together?

- Daily live righteous and devoted life to God, letting the Holy Spirit preside over us.
- Allow pains in our lives to cause us to turn to Him with wholehearted worship, prayer and fasting?
- Obey God's commands, live a disciplined life?