

Getting Ready for Christmas

The Christmas Jesus Came to Give

I. Introduction

- A. Luke 2:25-32 (NLG) ²⁵At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, ²⁸Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. ³⁰I have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared for all people. ³²He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"
- B. Luke 2:36-38 (NLG) ³⁶Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. ³⁷When she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshipping God with fasting and prayer. ³⁸She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.
1. "The Christmas that our culture says we need."
 2. "The Christmas that Jesus came to give."
 3. Christmas - - from God's perspective - - is us joining God in giving to those in need!

II. How to Have the Christmas Jesus Came to Give

- A. Read the Christmas story and focus on what the characters didn't have.
- B. Remember whose birthday it is, and do the stuff He loves!
- C. Practice gratitude for what you do have.
- D. Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLG) ⁶For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.

III. Conclusion

