

December 29, 2013

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Be Faithful

Luke 2:21-40

The Advent season is the time we set aside to focus on Jesus and celebrate the meaning of His birth and the impact it has on us and our world. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we let the message of His coming infiltrate every area of our life in such a way that it impacts the world around us. The very fact of Christ birth is enough for us to understand what it means to be blessed. It is the most amazing event in human history. Yet the celebration of Jesus is more than a seasonal event. We are called to be faithful to Jesus in every part of our lives. We see in the life of the man Simeon what it means to be faithful to the Lord.

1. **Be faithful to trust and believe God's promises.**

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.” **Luke 2:25-26 (NIV)**

“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” **Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)**

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through Him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” **2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)**

2. **Be faithful to nurture your relationship with Jesus.**

“Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God...” **Luke 2:27-28 (NIV)**

“Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ and to know that I belong to Him... All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised Him to life.” **Philippians 3:8-10 (CEV)**

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” **Colossians 3:16-17 (NIV)**

3. **Be faithful so the witness of Jesus will continue beyond you.**

“...Your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” **Luke 2:30-32 (NIV)**

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12**

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” **2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)**

“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.” **Colossians 1:6 (NIV)**

4. Be faithful through the entirety of your life.

“Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation...”
Luke 2:29-30 (NIV)

“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.” **Acts 13:36 (NIV)**

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 3:14 (NASB)**

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith...” **2 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)**