

Mary 4: Christ in the Temple

Sam McVay, Jr.
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Transitioning from Prophetic Hope to Living Reality

Luke 2:22-38

Review

Mary 1: Conceiving the Christ

Mary 2: Carrying the Christ

Mary 3: Birthing the Christ

Mary 4: Presenting the Christ

Luke 2:22-38

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),

24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25 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 on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

27 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,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Two older praying prophetic people in Jerusalem transition from a future hope to a present reality.

Mary takes the literal Jesus into the Temple and transitions a couple of Temple dwellers.

By their words we can tell that they have seen and experienced what they had hoped for all their lives.

“Information about Christ” does not have the same impact as “the presence of Christ”.

Many in the church are living on the O.T. side of experiencing Christ.

Our words, lives, and prayers often communicate that we are still awaiting something that has already been finished.

Examples:

1. We are often asking for Christ to come, when He is already here.
2. We are often waiting for freedom from bondage that has already been broken.
3. We are often hoping forward for something that has already been provided.
4. Our hearts are often craving for a love that is already being poured out.

Are you walking in a “pre-Christ religious lack” or in a “right-now grace accomplished fullness”?

Are you asking for things that you already have?

Are you stuck in a prophetic hope when the Holy Spirit is providing you a present abundant presence?