

December 28th

Mary and Joseph are waiting.
 And then the day comes.
 According to the Law, she is clean.
 She does not have to keep herself from society.
 So they go to the temple for several reasons.

Luke 2:22-24 – ²² Now when the days of her _____ according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to _____ to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), ²⁴ and to offer a _____ according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

They go to Jerusalem to honor God.
 To present their newborn Son.
 And to finish Mary’s purification.

So Joseph and Mary arrive at the temple.
 Once they are done obeying the Law, they can go home to their family.
 They can finally return back to who they love and what they know, the familiar.
 They just have to get through these last two rituals.

But God is still celebrating His Son.

Luke 2:25-28 – ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was _____, and this man was just and _____, waiting for the _____ of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the _____. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and _____ God ...

And again God speaks of His plans to His chosen parents.

Luke 2:30-32,34-35 – ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your _____ ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A _____ to bring _____ to the Gentiles, And the _____ of Your people Israel.” ... ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many _____ may be revealed.”

How does the couple react to Simeon’s words? (**Luke 1:33**)

Going Deeper:

1. *What does Simeon reveal about who Jesus is?*

2. *Simeon is described as “just and devout”. What does it mean to be devout? How devout do you think you are?*

3. *Jesus is called the “Consolation of Israel”. When was a time Jesus consoled you through something difficult, painful, or unfair?*

4. *You are a Gentile, part of the non-Jewish nations. How have you experienced the “light” of God in your life? How has it changed you for the better?*

5. *How does Paul help spread Jesus’ message and mission of verse 32? (Consider Acts 9:15, 22:21, 26:17-18; Galatians 2:7-9)*
