



## Sermon Notes from 23 December

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### The Promise Delivered (Luke 2:22-35)

by Pastor Thomas Lim

v22 Jesus came as promised, but as a child! He was brought to the temple 8 days after a 33-day period of purification for the mother.

#### 1. The Unexpected Promise Delivered

Lk 2:19 Though the grandeur and excitement of Christ's birth had passed, Mary still marveled at what was being said about the child (v33).

v22-24 The one who carried the sins of the world did not come as a mighty warrior ready for vengeance but as a helpless infant, totally dependent on Joseph and Mary. *Why?*

v26 Simeon, prompted by the Spirit, went to the temple to see the promised Saviour, but sees the child and breaks into a song (vv30-31). **Why did Jesus come as a child?** There is no other like Jesus! He is the only *bridge* between man and God for he alone is fully human and fully divine at the same time! He is not a product of this world, but conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hence, we get to be reconciled to God the Father. **The virgin birth is the sign of His divinity. His infancy is the sign of His humanity.** Jesus faced all the temptations that we face but remained pure, perfect and holy. **To make the full sacrifice on our behalf, Jesus had to make the full commitment.**

v52 After 30 years of obscurity, Jesus quietly began a ministry that changed human history. He took the full burden and journey of humanity.

**If Jesus had been God only, his sacrifice would have been cheap and**

**unconvincing. If Jesus had been man only, his sacrifice would have had no power; he would have been a martyr like thousand others.** Jesus is the promised Messiah (Isa 7:14; Gal 4:4-5)!

#### 2. The Promise Expectantly Received

**What made Simeon ready to receive the promised Messiah?**

Lk 2:25-32 Simeon was a righteous and devout man of God. His posture of waiting expectantly for the promised *consolation*, meaning *comfort* (Isa 7) of Israel, prepared him as did Joseph of Arimathea (Mk 15:43). **God prepares a person to receive Christ by stirring up a longing for consolation and salvation in their hearts.** *"Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience... At last, by the mercy of God, ... I began to understand that... the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel... Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."* Martin Luther

Simeon found the comfort (Isa 40:1-2) when Christ was born (Lk 2:30-32).

*God wants you to experience His redemptive power at work in your life through a longing and stirring in your heart that can only be satisfied by Jesus.*

#### Application

Ask God to reveal to you the people in your circles of contact whose hearts He is preparing to receive Him. Be bold to invite them to church.