



Jesus Presented At The Temple

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 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.”

Luke 2:22-24

Leviticus 12: Purification after childbirth

The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean in her monthly period. On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred, or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, and she must wait sixty-six days to be purified from her bleeding.

“When the days of her purification for a son or daughter are over, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or dove for a sin offering. He shall offer them before the Lord to make atonement for her, and then she will be ceremonially clean from her flow of blood.

“These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or girl. If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her and she will be clean.

Purification & Presentation In The Temple

Three Elements:

1. Waiting Period:

- from daily rituals
 - 7 days (male child)
 - 14 days (female child)
- from “holy” things
 - 40 days (male child)
 - 80 days (female child)

Purification & Presentation In The Temple

Three Elements:

1. **Waiting Period:**
2. **Cleansing Agent:** (water; fire; blood)
 - she was to wash her clothes
 - she was to bathe her body

Purification & Presentation In The Temple

Three Elements:

1. Waiting Period:
2. Cleansing Agent:
3. **Sacrifice:**
 - from bodily discharges (disease/illness)
 - 2 turtledoves or 2 young pigeons
 - **from childbirth**
 - 1 lamb & 1 pigeon or turtledove (Wealthy)
OR
 - 2 pigeons or turtledoves (Poor)
 - from leprosy
 - 2 male lambs & 1 ewe

Luke 2:22-38 – Simeon & Anna meet the Messiah

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 Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 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, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people, Israel.”

The child’s father & mother marveled at what was said about him. 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting & praying. 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.

Just One Point This Morning:

Simeon & Anna had the joy of seeing the promised Messiah, Jesus!

... because they were looking for Him!

- Amidst the daily activities of their lives, they had a deep longing in their heart that God graciously answered.
... again, in His *kairos* time.

Simeon & Anna had surely memorized the words of Jeremiah:

“You will seek me and you will find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:13-14

- For both of them, seeing the Messiah was the fulfillment of their lifetime!!
 - ... like Abraham, they could now die in SHALOM!

(Years later) Jesus said,

“The Kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field, . . .
When the man found it, he sold all that he had in order to
buy the field and possess the treasure.”

. . . “The Kingdom of God is like a merchant searching for
fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went
away and sold everything he had in order to buy it.”

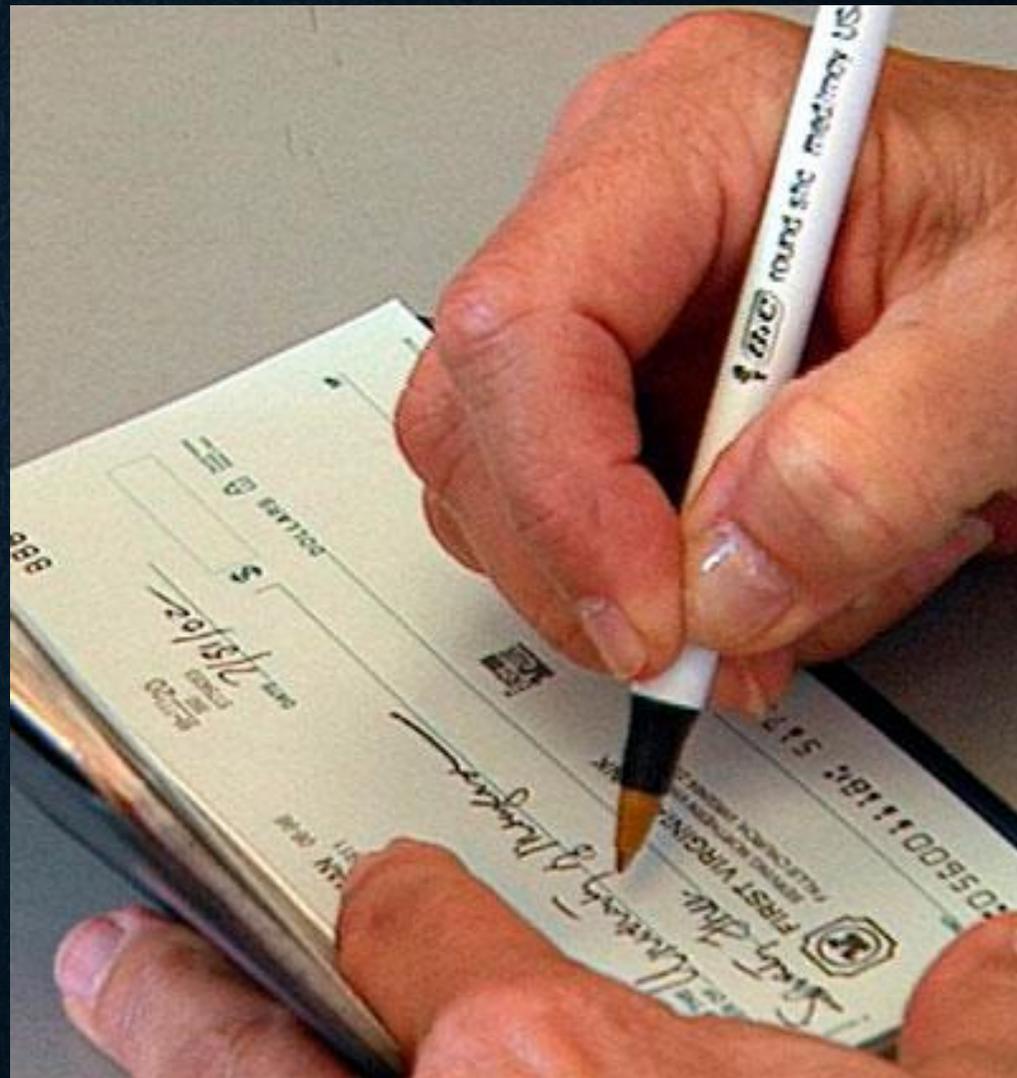
Matthew 13

Question Worth Answering:

If God grants me life for another year, what will define me in 2018?

- What will my “treasure” be?
- How will I go about obtaining my treasure?
- Why is it important to me?

How do I even know what my “treasure” is?



New Year Assignment:

- Sit down this week and review your calendar & your chequebook for 2017.

Be honest with yourself:

- How did I spend the time God gave me this year?
- How did I spend the money God gave me this year?
- How did I serve others this year ... with the time & resources God provided me?

Now that you know your values, consider whether you need to make some adjustments ...

Some Suggestions:

1. Time Management:

- Married? . . . let your spouse schedule your calendar with you.
- Parent? . . . let your kids decide how you'll spend your free time!
- Teens? . . . let your parents decide on your free time!
- Everyone . . . let God write His time into your daily schedule.
 - start each day with your "10's"
 - One-Year Bible.

Some Suggestions:

1. Time Management:

2. “Being”, rather than “Doing”

- Ask: “Who do I want to BE in 2018?”
 - What will my values be?
 - What will my Chequebook and Schedule tell me on Dec 31, 2018?

Some Suggestions:

1. Time Management:
2. “Being”, *rather than* “Doing”
3. Ask some “Ultimate Issue” Questions:
 - If next year was the last year of my life, how would I spend it?
 - What would I attempt for God if I knew I could not fail?
 - Who would I like to introduce to Jesus next year?
How will God make this a reality through me?
 - How can I serve others in Christ’s love next year?

“The Kingdom of God is like the story of a man going on a long trip. He called his servants together and entrusted his wealth to them while he was away . . . After a period of time, the man returned and called the servants to him to account for how they had managed his wealth . . .”

Jesus - Matthew 25