CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 2 —

The Birth and Early Life of Jesus

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 2 tells the most beloved story in the world.

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

The Son of the Most High, promised in Chapter 1, is now born.

But He is not born in a palace.

He is laid in a manger.

His birth is not announced to kings.

It is announced to shepherds in a field.

Heaven fills the sky with praise, while earth hardly notices.

Then two faithful old believers, Simeon and Anna, recognize Him in the temple.

Finally, Luke gives us the only story in the Gospels from Jesus' boyhood.

At twelve years old, Jesus is found in the temple, already about His Father's business.

The chapter moves through seven movements:

- The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (verses 1–7).
- The Shepherds and the Angels (verses 8–20).
- Jesus Presented at the Temple (verses 21–24).
- Simeon's Prophecy (verses 25–35).
- Anna the Prophetess (verses 36–38).
- Jesus Returns to Nazareth (verses 39–40).
- The Boy Jesus in the Temple (verses 41–52).

The central truth of Luke 2 is:

God sent His Son into the world in humility, as Savior, Christ, and Lord for all people, fulfilling His promises, and Jesus grew as a true human being while always devoted to His Father's will.

I. CAESAR AUGUSTUS ISSUED A DECREE

Luke 2:1 — A Census of the Roman World

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.”

“Caesar Augustus.”

The most powerful man in the world.

Rome called him a savior and a bringer of peace.

Some even called him a son of god.

“Issued a decree that a census should be taken.”

A census was used for taxes and control.

Caesar thought he was acting for his own purposes.

But God was moving a ruler to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Cross References

Ezra 1:1

> In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, the Lord stirred Cyrus's heart to send out an announcement through his whole kingdom, so that the word of the Lord through Jeremiah would come true.

Proverbs 21:1

> A king's heart is like a stream of water in the Lord's hand. He turns it in any direction He wants.

Matthew 2:1

> Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea during the time when Herod was king.

Spiritual Principle

God rules over the rulers of the world.

Key Truth

Caesar issued a decree, but God was writing the story.

II. THE FIRST CENSUS

Luke 2:2 — Quirinius, Governor of Syria

“(This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)”

Luke places the birth of Jesus in real history.

He names the ruler and the event.

Historians have discussed exactly how this census fits with other records of Quirinius.

Several reasonable explanations have been suggested, and Luke has proven to be a careful historian in many details.

The point is clear: Jesus was born at a real time, in a real place.

Cross References

Acts 5:37

> After him, Judas from Galilee appeared at the time of the census and led a group of people to follow him.

Matthew 2:1

> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, while Herod was ruling, wise men from the east arrived.

Ezra 1:1

> The Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel is rooted in real history.

Key Truth

God entered our world at a specific moment in time.

III. EVERYONE WENT TO REGISTER

Luke 2:3 — To Their Own Town

“And everyone went to their own town to register.”

The whole empire was on the move.

People traveled to their family towns.

It was inconvenient.

It was costly.

But God was using even this to bring His plan to pass.

Cross References

Numbers 1:2

> Count all the people of Israel by their clans and families, listing every man by name.

2 Samuel 24:2

> The king said to Joab, “Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and count the fighting men.”

Matthew 2:1

> Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea.

Spiritual Principle

God uses ordinary events for extraordinary purposes.

Key Truth

What seems like a burden may be God's way of moving us where He wants us.

IV. TO BETHLEHEM, THE TOWN OF DAVID

Luke 2:4 — Joseph Went Up

“Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.”

“Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth.”

A journey of about ninety miles.

“To Bethlehem the town of David.”

David was born in Bethlehem.

Micah had said the Messiah would come from Bethlehem.

“Because he belonged to the house and line of David.”

The royal line.

Jesus, the Son of David, would be born in David's town.

Cross References

Micah 5:2

> Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are only a little town among the families of Judah. Yet from you will come the One who will rule Israel for Me. His story goes back to the distant past, to the days of long ago.

1 Samuel 16:1

> The Lord said to Samuel, “Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

Ruth 1:19

> So the two women walked on until they reached Bethlehem. When they arrived, the whole town was stirred because of them.

Spiritual Principle

God fulfills prophecy down to the very town.

Key Truth

Bethlehem was chosen centuries before Caesar's decree.

V. WITH MARY

Luke 2:5 — Expecting a Child

“He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”

“He went there to register with Mary.”

Joseph did not leave Mary behind.

He protected her.

“Who was pledged to be married to him.”

They were not yet living fully as husband and wife.

“And was expecting a child.”

A hard journey for a woman near the end of her pregnancy.

Joseph and Mary obeyed God together through difficulty.

Cross References

Matthew 1:24

> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 1:18

> Mary was promised in marriage to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 24:5

> A newly married man must not be sent to war or given any other duty. He is free to stay home for one year to bring happiness to his wife.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful people walk through hard roads together in obedience to God.

Key Truth

Joseph quietly protected Mary and the child.

VI. THE TIME CAME

Luke 2:6 — The Baby to Be Born

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,”

“While they were there.”

In Bethlehem, exactly where the prophet said.

“The time came for the baby to be born.”

God's perfect timing.

Not one day early.

Not one day late.

The eternal Son entered time.

Cross References

Genesis 25:24

> When her days were complete and it was time to give birth, she had twins.

Isaiah 9:6

> For a child has been born for us, a son has been given to us.

Galatians 4:4

> When the time God planned had arrived, He sent His Son. He was born to a woman and lived under the law.

Spiritual Principle

God's timing is always perfect.

Key Truth

The fullness of time had come.

VII. LAID IN A MANGER

Luke 2:7 — No Room for Them

“and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

“She gave birth to her firstborn son.”

“Firstborn” also speaks of His rights and honor as the heir.

“She wrapped Him in cloths.”

Strips of cloth, as any baby would be wrapped.

“And placed Him in a manger.”

A feeding trough for animals.

The King of kings had a feeding trough for His first bed.

“Because there was no room for them in the inn.”

The word may mean a public inn or the guest room of a family home.

Either way, there was no place for them.

It is a picture of how the world would treat Him.

Cross References

Isaiah 9:6

> A child is born to us, and the government will rest on His shoulders.

Micah 5:2

> From Bethlehem will come One who will rule over Israel.

Matthew 1:25

> But he had no sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph named Him Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

The Son of God came in humility.

Application

Is there room in your life for Jesus, or is He still pushed aside?

VIII. SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS

Luke 2:8 — Keeping Watch at Night

“Nearby, shepherds were living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks at night.”

“Shepherds.”

Shepherds were poor, working people.

Many looked down on them.

Their work often kept them from temple worship.

“Keeping watch over their flocks at night.”

Ordinary men doing ordinary work.

David had been a shepherd in these same hills.

God announced His Son first to the humble.

Cross References

Micah 5:2

> Bethlehem, you are small among the towns of Judah, yet a ruler will come from you.

Genesis 35:19

> So Rachel died and was buried on the road to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

Psalm 78:70

> He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens.

Spiritual Principle

God reveals Himself to the humble.

Key Truth

The first to hear were not the powerful, but shepherds.

IX. THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE

Luke 2:9 — They Were Terrified

“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

“An angel of the Lord appeared to them.”

Heaven came to a dark field.

“The glory of the Lord shone around them.”

The same glory that once filled the tabernacle.

Now it shone on shepherds.

“And they were terrified.”

God's holy presence is overwhelming.

Cross References

Exodus 40:34

> Then the cloud covered the meeting tent, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Acts 12:7

> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the prison cell.

2 Kings 6:17

> Elisha prayed, “Lord, open his eyes so he can see.” The Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire.

Spiritual Principle

God's glory shines into ordinary places.

Key Truth

The glory once hidden in the temple appeared over a field of sheep.

X. GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Luke 2:10 — For All People

“But the angel said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.”

“Do not be afraid.”

Again, heaven's first word is comfort.

“I bring you good news.”

The gospel.

“Of great joy.”

Not small joy.

Great joy.

“That will be for all people.”

Not only the rich.

Not only the religious.

Not only one nation.

All people.

Cross References

Isaiah 9:6

> A child is born for us.

Isaiah 52:7

> What a welcome sight it is to see a messenger coming over the mountains with good news! He announces peace, tells of rescue, and says to Zion, “Your God reigns as King!”

Psalm 96:2

> Sing to the Lord and praise His name. Every day tell how He saves.

Spiritual Principle

The gospel is good news for everyone.

Key Truth

No one is outside the reach of this joy.

XI. A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN

Luke 2:11 — Christ the Lord

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”

“Today.”

Not someday.

The promise had arrived.

“In the town of David.”

Bethlehem, as promised.

“A Savior has been born to you.”

To you, shepherds.

To you, reader.

“He is Christ the Lord.”

Christ means Messiah, the Anointed King.

Lord is the name of God.

Three titles: Savior, Christ, Lord.

Caesar claimed to be savior and lord.

But the true Savior and Lord was lying in a manger.

Cross References

Micah 5:2

> Out of Bethlehem will come the One who will be Ruler in Israel.

Isaiah 9:6

> He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 1:21

You will name Him Jesus, for He will rescue His people from their sins.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Key Truth

The Savior was born for you.

XII. THIS WILL BE A SIGN

Luke 2:12 — A Baby in a Manger

“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.””

“This will be a sign to you.”

The shepherds were given a way to find Him.

“You will find a baby wrapped in cloths.”

Ordinary.

“And lying in a manger.”

Very unusual.

A newborn in a feeding trough.

The sign was humility.

The Lord of glory would be found in a lowly place.

Cross References

1 Samuel 2:34

What happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you.

Isaiah 7:14

The Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will have a son.

Exodus 3:12

God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign that I sent you.”

Spiritual Principle

God's sign is often found in humble places.

Key Truth

The Savior was recognized by His lowliness.

XIII. THE HEAVENLY HOST

Luke 2:13 — Praising God

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,”

“Suddenly.”

Without warning, heaven opened.

“A great company of the heavenly host.”

An army of angels.

But this army did not come to fight.

It came to worship.

“Praising God.”

Heaven could not keep quiet.

Cross References

Psalm 148:2

All you angels, give Him praise! All you armies of heaven, give Him praise!

Daniel 7:10

Thousands upon thousands served Him, and millions stood before Him.

Revelation 5:11

> Then I looked and heard the voices of many angels, numbering thousands and millions. They surrounded the throne.

Spiritual Principle

Heaven rejoices in the coming of the Savior.

Key Truth

The birth of Jesus caused a worship service in the sky.

XIV. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Luke 2:14 — Peace on Earth

““Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.””

“Glory to God in the highest.”

The first purpose of Christ's coming is God's glory.

“And on earth peace.”

Peace with God.

Peace that Caesar could never give.

“To those on whom His favor rests.”

This peace is a gift of God's grace.

It comes to those who receive His favor through Christ.

Cross References

Isaiah 9:6

> He will be called the Prince of Peace.

Psalm 85:10

> Faithful love and truth will meet together. Doing right and peace will kiss each other.

Ephesians 2:14

> Christ Himself is our peace. He made the two groups into one and broke down the wall of hatred that divided us.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus brings glory to God and peace to people.

Key Truth

True peace begins with God's favor in Christ.

XV. LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15 — See This Thing

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.””

“When the angels had left them.”

The sky went dark again.

“Let's go to Bethlehem.”

They did not just talk about it.

They acted.

“And see this thing that has happened.”

They believed it had happened.

“Which the Lord has told us about.”

They knew the message was from God.

Cross References

Exodus 3:3

> Moses said, “I will go over and see this amazing sight. Why doesn't the bush burn up?”

Micah 5:2

Bethlehem, from you will come a Ruler.

1 Samuel 9:18

Saul came up to Samuel at the gate and asked, “Please tell me where the seer's house is.”

Spiritual Principle

Faith responds to God's word with action.

Key Truth

The shepherds went to see for themselves.

XVI. THEY HURRIED OFF

Luke 2:16 — They Found Him

“They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”

“They hurried off.”

No delay.

Eager hearts.

“And found Mary and Joseph, and the baby.”

Just as the angel said.

“Who was lying in the manger.”

The sign was true.

Those who seek Jesus find Him.

Cross References

1 Samuel 9:18

Saul approached Samuel in the gateway.

Ruth 1:19

The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:11

> When they went into the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him.

Spiritual Principle

Those who seek Jesus will find Him.

Key Truth

God's word led the shepherds straight to Jesus.

XVII. THEY SPREAD THE WORD

Luke 2:17 — After Seeing Him

“After seeing Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,”

“After seeing Him.”

They met Jesus.

“They spread the word.”

They could not keep it to themselves.

Shepherds became the first evangelists.

People who meet Jesus want to tell others.

Cross References

Psalm 96:3

> Tell the nations about His glory. Tell all peoples about His amazing works.

Isaiah 12:4

> On that day you will say, “Give thanks to the Lord and call on His name. Tell the nations what He has done.”

Matthew 2:11

> They saw the child with Mary and worshiped Him.

Spiritual Principle

Meeting Jesus leads to telling others.

Application

Who have you told about Jesus?

XVIII. ALL WHO HEARD WERE AMAZED

Luke 2:18 — What the Shepherds Said

“and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

The people were amazed.

Angels?

A Savior?

In a manger?

The message was astonishing.

But amazement is not the same as faith.

Many were amazed and then forgot.

Cross References

Matthew 2:3

> When King Herod heard this, he was upset, and so was everyone in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 52:15

> He will surprise many nations. Kings will be silent because of Him.

Luke 1:65

> All the neighbors were filled with awe, and people talked about these things all through the hill country.

Spiritual Principle

Amazement must grow into faith.

Key Truth

Many are impressed by Jesus who never follow Him.

XIX. MARY TREASURED THESE THINGS

Luke 2:19 — Pondering in Her Heart

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

“But Mary.”

In contrast to those who were only amazed.

“Treasured up all these things.”

She kept them like precious jewels.

“And pondered them in her heart.”

She thought deeply about them.

She put the pieces together.

Mary was a woman of quiet reflection.

Cross References

Genesis 37:11

> Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept thinking about what he said.

Daniel 7:28

> I was deeply troubled, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.

Proverbs 4:23

> Protect your heart more than anything, because everything in your life comes out of it.

Spiritual Principle

God's works are meant to be treasured and pondered.

Application

Take time to quietly reflect on what God has done in your life.

XX. GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD

Luke 2:20 — Just as They Had Been Told

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which was just as they had been told.”

“The shepherds returned.”

Back to their sheep.

Back to ordinary work.

“Glorifying and praising God.”

But they were not the same.

“For all they had heard and seen.”

They had heard the angels.

They had seen the Savior.

“Which was just as they had been told.”

God's word proved true in every detail.

Cross References

Psalm 107:22

> Let them offer sacrifices of thanks and tell about His works with songs of joy.

Psalm 148:1

> Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the heights above.

1 Chronicles 16:34

> Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good. His love goes on forever.

Spiritual Principle

Worship transforms ordinary life.

Key Truth

The shepherds went back to the same work with a new song.

XXI. HE WAS NAMED JESUS

Luke 2:21 — On the Eighth Day

“On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, He was named Jesus—the name the angel had given Him before He was conceived.”

“On the eighth day… to circumcise the child.”

Jesus was born under the law.

His parents obeyed it faithfully.

“He was named Jesus.”

The Lord saves.

“The name the angel had given Him before He was conceived.”

Mary and Joseph obeyed God's word exactly.

Cross References

Genesis 17:12

> From now on every boy among you must be circumcised when he is eight days old.

Matthew 1:21

> Name Him Jesus, because He is the One who will rescue His people from their sins.

Leviticus 12:3

> On the eighth day the baby boy is to be circumcised.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus fully identified with God's people under the law.

Key Truth

His name declared His mission from His first week.

XXII. TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD

Luke 2:22 — Purification Completed

“When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses was completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord,”

“When the time of their purification… was completed.”

Forty days after the birth of a son.

“Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem.”

About six miles from Bethlehem.

“To present Him to the Lord.”

They dedicated their son to God.

Jesus was brought into His Father's house.

Cross References

Leviticus 12:6

> When her days of cleansing for a son or daughter are over, she must bring a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or dove for a sin offering.

Exodus 13:2

> Set apart every firstborn male to Me. The first son born to every Israelite mother belongs to Me.

Numbers 18:15

> The first male offspring of every womb, both of people and animals, offered to the Lord is yours. But you must buy back every firstborn son.

Spiritual Principle

Children are a gift to be given back to God.

Key Truth

Mary and Joseph honored God with their son from the very beginning.

XXIII. CONSECRATED TO THE LORD

Luke 2:23 — Every Firstborn Male

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

Since the first Passover, every firstborn son belonged to God.

God spared Israel's firstborn in Egypt.

So each firstborn was set apart for Him.

Jesus is the true Firstborn, wholly devoted to God.

Cross References

Exodus 13:2

> Dedicate to Me every firstborn male. Every first son belongs to Me.

Exodus 13:12

> You must give to the Lord every firstborn son and every firstborn male of your animals.

Exodus 22:29

> You must give Me the firstborn of your sons.

Spiritual Principle

What belongs to God should be given to God.

Key Truth

Jesus was set apart for God from birth.

XXIV. A PAIR OF DOVES

Luke 2:24 — The Offering of the Poor

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

The law said to bring a lamb.

But if a family could not afford a lamb, they could bring two birds.

Mary and Joseph brought the offering of the poor.

Jesus grew up in a poor family.

They could not bring a lamb.

But they were bringing the Lamb of God.

Cross References

Leviticus 12:8

> If she cannot afford a lamb, she may bring two doves or two young pigeons.

Leviticus 5:11

> If he cannot afford two doves or two pigeons, he may bring a small amount of fine flour as his offering for sin.

Leviticus 1:14

> If the offering to the Lord is a burnt offering of birds, he must bring a dove or a young pigeon.

Spiritual Principle

God welcomes the offerings of the poor.

Key Truth

The family who could not afford a lamb brought the Lamb of God.

XXV. SIMEON, RIGHTEOUS AND DEVOUT

Luke 2:25 — Waiting for the Consolation of Israel

“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.”

“Simeon, who was righteous and devout.”

He lived right and loved God.

“He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.”

The comfort God promised His people.

The coming of the Messiah.

“And the Holy Spirit was upon him.”

Simeon was led by God.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:1

> Your God says, “Give comfort to My people. Yes, give them comfort.”

Isaiah 25:9

> On that day they will say, “This is our God. We waited for Him, and He saved us.”

Genesis 49:18

> Lord, I am waiting for You to save me.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful believers wait expectantly for God's promises.

Key Truth

Simeon's whole life was a hopeful waiting.

XXVI. HE WOULD NOT DIE

Luke 2:26 — Before He Had Seen the Messiah

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

God gave Simeon a personal promise.

He would live to see the Messiah.

Perhaps he waited for years.

Every day he looked.

Every day he hoped.

Cross References

Psalm 89:48

> Who can live and never die? Who can save himself from the power of the grave?

Genesis 46:30

> Israel said to Joseph, “Now I am ready to die, since I have seen your face and know you are still alive.”

John 8:56

> Your father Abraham was full of joy at the thought of seeing My day. He saw it and was glad.

Spiritual Principle

God keeps personal promises to His faithful servants.

Key Truth

Simeon lived on God's promise.

XXVII. MOVED BY THE SPIRIT

Luke 2:27 — Into the Temple Courts

“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,”

“Moved by the Spirit.”

Simeon was led at exactly the right moment.

“He went into the temple courts.”

The very day Jesus was brought there.

“When the parents brought in the child Jesus.”

God arranged the meeting perfectly.

Malachi had said the Lord would suddenly come to His temple.

Cross References

Malachi 3:1

> Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to His temple.

Leviticus 12:6

> When her time of cleansing is finished, she must bring her offering to the priest at the entrance of the meeting tent.

Haggai 2:7

> I will shake all nations, and the treasure of every nation will come, and I will fill this house with glory.

Spiritual Principle

The Spirit leads believers to Jesus.

Key Truth

God's timing brought Simeon and Jesus together.

XXVIII. SIMEON TOOK HIM IN HIS ARMS

Luke 2:28 — Praising God

“Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:”

The old man held the baby.

He held the promise of God in his arms.

He held the Savior of the world.

And he praised God.

Cross References

Genesis 48:12

> Joseph took them from Israel's knees and bowed down with his face to the ground.

1 Samuel 1:24

> After he was weaned, she took the boy with her to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, though he was still young.

Psalm 63:4

> I will praise You as long as I live. I will lift up my hands in prayer to Your name.

Spiritual Principle

Holding Jesus leads to praise.

Key Truth

Simeon held in his arms the One who holds the world.

XXIX. DISMISS YOUR SERVANT IN PEACE

Luke 2:29 — As You Have Promised

““Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace.”

Simeon's song is often called the **Nunc Dimittis**, from its first words in Latin.

“Sovereign Lord.”

Master of all.

“As You have promised.”

God kept His word.

“You now dismiss Your servant in peace.”

Simeon was ready to die.

His life's longing was fulfilled.

He could leave this world in peace.

Cross References

Genesis 46:30

> Now I can die in peace, because I have seen you with my own eyes.

Psalm 116:15

The death of His faithful people is precious in the Lord's sight.

Philippians 1:23

I feel pulled two ways. I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which would be far better.

Spiritual Principle

Those who have seen Christ can face death in peace.

Key Truth

Knowing Jesus takes away the fear of death.

XXX. MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

Luke 2:30 — Seeing Salvation

“For my eyes have seen Your salvation,”

Simeon looked at a baby.

But he saw salvation.

Salvation is not first an idea.

Salvation is a Person.

Jesus is God's salvation.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:10

The Lord has shown His holy power to all the nations. Every part of the earth will see how our God saves.

Psalm 98:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Isaiah 40:5

The Lord's glory will be shown, and every person will see it at the same time.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation is found in a Person, Jesus Christ.

Key Truth

To see Jesus is to see God's salvation.

XXXI. IN THE SIGHT OF ALL NATIONS

Luke 2:31 — Prepared by God

“which You have prepared in the sight of all nations:”

“Which You have prepared.”

Salvation was God's plan, not man's.

“In the sight of all nations.”

Not hidden.

Not only for Israel.

For the whole world to see.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:10

> The Lord has rolled up His sleeve to show His holy power before all the nations.

Psalm 98:2

> The Lord has made His victory known. He has shown the nations that He does what is right.

Isaiah 49:6

> I will also make You a light for the nations, so that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Spiritual Principle

God's salvation is for all nations.

Key Truth

The gospel was meant to be seen by the whole world.

XXXII. A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES

Luke 2:32 — The Glory of Israel

“a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.””

“A light for revelation to the Gentiles.”

Jesus would reveal God to the nations.

People who had lived in darkness would see.

“And the glory of Your people Israel.”

Israel's greatest glory is the Messiah who came from them.

Jesus is for both Jew and Gentile.

Cross References

Isaiah 42:6

> I, the Lord, have called You to do what is right. I will hold Your hand and keep You. I will make You a covenant for the people and a light for the nations.

Isaiah 49:6

> Bringing back the tribes of Jacob is not enough of a task for You. I will also make You a light to the nations who do not know Me.

Isaiah 46:13

> I will give salvation to Zion and My glory to Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is the light for every nation.

Key Truth

Jesus is Israel's glory and the world's light.

XXXIII. THEY MARVELED

Luke 2:33 — What Was Said About Him

“The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about Him.”

“The child's father and mother.”

Joseph was Jesus' legal father and raised Him as his own.

“Marveled at what was said about Him.”

Even after angels and shepherds, they were still amazed.

Every new word about Jesus revealed more.

Cross References

Isaiah 8:18

> Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Mark 6:2

> Many who heard Him were amazed. They asked, “Where did this man get these things? What is this wisdom given to Him?”

John 7:15

> The Jewish leaders were amazed and asked, “How does this man know so much when He has never studied?”

Spiritual Principle

The more we learn of Jesus, the more we marvel.

Key Truth

There is always more to discover about Jesus.

XXXIV. FALLING AND RISING

Luke 2:34 — A Sign Spoken Against

“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,”

“Simeon blessed them.”

A blessing, then a warning.

“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many.”

Jesus would divide people.

Some would stumble over Him and fall.

Others would believe and rise.

“To be a sign that will be spoken against.”

Jesus would be opposed.

No one can stay neutral about Him.

Cross References

Isaiah 8:14

> He will be a holy place, but for both kingdoms of Israel He will be a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall.

Isaiah 28:16

> See, I am setting a stone in Zion, a stone that has been tested. It is a precious cornerstone, laid as a solid foundation. Anyone who trusts it will never need to run in fear.

1 Peter 2:8

> He is a stone that causes people to trip and a rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they do not obey the message.

Spiritual Principle

Every person must respond to Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus is either a stumbling stone or a sure foundation.

XXXV. A SWORD WILL PIERCE YOUR SOUL

Luke 2:35 — Hearts Revealed

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

“So that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”

How people respond to Jesus shows what is truly in their hearts.

“And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

A word of future sorrow for Mary.

She would stand at the cross and watch her Son die.

Following God's plan would bring her both joy and deep pain.

Cross References

Psalm 22:16

> Wild dogs have circled around me, and a crowd of wicked men has trapped me. They have pierced my hands and feet.

Zechariah 12:10

> They will look at Me, the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child.

John 19:25

> Standing near the cross of Jesus were His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reveals what is in the heart.

Key Truth

Even the most favored servant of God may walk through deep sorrow.

XXXVI. ANNA THE PROPHETESS

Luke 2:36 — Of the Tribe of Asher

“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,”

“There was also a prophetess, Anna.”

Luke often pairs a man and a woman.

Simeon and Anna.

Both bore witness to Jesus.

“Of the tribe of Asher.”

One of the northern tribes, often thought of as lost.

Yet God had kept a faithful witness from it.

“She had lived with her husband seven years.”

Then she lost him.

Her life was marked by sorrow.

Cross References

Exodus 15:20

> Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine, and all the women followed her, playing tambourines and dancing.

Judges 4:4

> Deborah, a prophetess and the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

Joel 2:28

> I will pour out My Spirit on everyone, and your sons and daughters will speak for Me.

Spiritual Principle

God uses both men and women as His witnesses.

Key Truth

Anna's sorrow did not stop her service.

XXXVII. WORSHIPED NIGHT AND DAY

Luke 2:37 — Fasting and Praying

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

“A widow until she was eighty-four.”

Or possibly a widow for eighty-four years.

Either way, she was very old and had been alone a long time.

“She never left the temple.”

She devoted her life to God's house.

“But worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.”

Grief did not make her bitter.

It made her devoted.

She turned her loneliness into worship.

Cross References

1 Timothy 5:5

> The widow who is truly in need and alone puts her hope in God and keeps on praying night and day.

Psalm 84:10

> A single day spent in Your house is worth more than a thousand days somewhere else.

Acts 26:7

> Our twelve tribes hope to see this promise come true as they worship God earnestly night and day.

Spiritual Principle

Sorrow can lead to deeper devotion.

Key Truth

A life of prayer prepared Anna to recognize Jesus.

XXXVIII. SHE GAVE THANKS

Luke 2:38 — The Redemption of Jerusalem

“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.”

“At that very moment.”

God's perfect timing again.

“She gave thanks to God.”

Her long waiting ended in thanksgiving.

“And spoke about the child.”

She became a witness.

“To all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.”

There was a faithful group still waiting.

Anna told them the waiting was over.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:9

> Break into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted His people. He has bought Jerusalem back.

Isaiah 40:2

> Speak kindly to Jerusalem and tell her that her hard service is over and her sin has been paid for.

Psalm 130:7

> Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is faithful love and full redemption.

Spiritual Principle

Those who meet Jesus become witnesses.

Key Truth

Anna was the first to tell the city about its Redeemer.

XXXIX. THEY RETURNED TO NAZARETH

Luke 2:39 — Everything Required

“When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.”

“When Joseph and Mary had done everything required.”

They were faithful in every detail.

“They returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.”

Matthew tells of the wise men and the escape to Egypt during this period.

Luke moves directly to their home in Nazareth.

The Savior would grow up in a humble town.

Cross References

Matthew 2:23

> He went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said came true: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Exodus 12:24

> Keep this rule as a lasting law for you and your children.

Deuteronomy 16:16

> Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place He will choose.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful obedience in small things honors God.

Key Truth

Jesus grew up in an ordinary town in an obedient home.

XL. THE CHILD GREW

Luke 2:40 — Filled with Wisdom

“And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him.”

“The child grew and became strong.”

Jesus truly grew.

He was a real child.

“He was filled with wisdom.”

His mind and heart grew in understanding.

“And the grace of God was on Him.”

God's favor rested on Him.

Jesus is fully God and fully human.

He grew as every child grows.

Cross References

Judges 13:24

> The boy grew, and the Lord blessed him.

1 Samuel 2:26

> Samuel kept growing, and the Lord and the people were pleased with him.

Isaiah 11:2

> The Lord's Spirit will stay on Him, giving Him wisdom and understanding, good advice and strength, and the knowledge that comes from honoring the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus shared our human growth.

Key Truth

The Son of God was once a growing child.

XLI. EVERY YEAR TO JERUSALEM

Luke 2:41 — The Passover

“Every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.”

“Every year.”

A faithful family habit.

“For the Festival of the Passover.”

Remembering how God rescued Israel from Egypt.

Jesus grew up in a family that worshiped God regularly.

One day He would become the true Passover Lamb.

Cross References

Exodus 12:24

> Obey these instructions as a lasting rule for you and your descendants.

Deuteronomy 16:16

> Three times each year, every man must come before the Lord at the place He chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Shelters.

Exodus 23:15

> Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread. For seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful families build habits of worship.

Application

What habits of worship are you building in your home?

XLII. TWELVE YEARS OLD

Luke 2:42 — According to the Custom

“When He was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.”

“When He was twelve years old.”

An important age.

A Jewish boy was preparing to take on adult responsibility for keeping God's law.

“According to the custom.”

The family followed the faithful pattern.

Cross References

Exodus 12:24

> You are to keep this practice as a permanent law.

Deuteronomy 16:16

> Three times a year your men must gather before the Lord.

Numbers 9:2

> Have the Israelites celebrate the Passover at the appointed time.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual growth includes taking responsibility for our own faith.

Key Truth

Jesus came of age in His Father's house.

XLIII. JESUS STAYED BEHIND

Luke 2:43 — Unaware

“After the festival was over, while His parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.”

“The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.”

He did not wander off by accident.

He stayed on purpose.

“But they were unaware of it.”

Families traveled in large groups.

It was easy to assume a child was with relatives.

Cross References

1 Samuel 1:24

> She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh.

1 Samuel 2:11

> The boy stayed and served the Lord under Eli the priest.

Exodus 24:2

> Only Moses is to come near the Lord. The others must not come near.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was drawn to His Father's house.

Key Truth

Even as a boy, Jesus knew where He belonged.

XLIV. THEY TRAVELED ON FOR A DAY

Luke 2:44 — Looking Among Relatives

“Thinking He was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for Him among their relatives and friends.”

“Thinking He was in their company.”

They assumed.

It is possible to assume Jesus is with us when He is not.

“They traveled on for a day.”

“Then they began looking for Him.”

Worry began to grow.

Cross References

Genesis 37:15

> A man found Joseph wandering in the fields and asked him, “What are you looking for?”

Song of Solomon 3:2

> I will get up now and go around the city, through its streets and squares. I will look for the one my heart loves.

Job 19:14

> My relatives have gone away, and my close friends have forgotten me.

Spiritual Principle

Never assume Jesus is with you; seek Him.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to travel a long way while assuming Jesus is near.

XLV. THEY WENT BACK

Luke 2:45 — Looking for Him

“When they did not find Him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him.”

They had to go back to where they last saw Him.

When we lose a sense of Jesus' nearness, we must go back and seek Him.

They did not give up.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:2

> I searched for him, but I did not find him.

Genesis 37:15

> He was wandering around in the field.

John 6:24

> When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His followers were there, they got into boats and went to Capernaum to look for Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

When Jesus seems far away, go back and seek Him.

Key Truth

Those who seek Him with all their heart will find Him.

XLVI. AFTER THREE DAYS

Luke 2:46 — Among the Teachers

“After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.”

“After three days.”

Three anxious days.

Many see a quiet picture of another three days, when Jesus would be lost to them in death and then found alive.

“They found Him in the temple courts.”

In His Father's house.

“Sitting among the teachers.”

“Listening to them and asking them questions.”

Jesus was not showing off.

He was learning and engaging.

He listened as well as spoke.

Cross References

1 Samuel 2:11

> The boy Samuel served the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

Proverbs 8:34

Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my doors and waiting at my doorway.

Acts 22:3

I was brought up in this city and trained by Gamaliel in the law of our ancestors.

Spiritual Principle

Wisdom listens and asks good questions.

Key Truth

Jesus was found where He belonged, in His Father's house.

XLVII. AMAZED AT HIS UNDERSTANDING

Luke 2:47 — His Answers

“Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers.”

The teachers of the law were astonished.

A twelve-year-old boy understood God's word deeply.

His questions were wise.

His answers were wiser.

Cross References

1 Kings 3:12

I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you and never will be.

Isaiah 11:2

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding will rest on Him.

Colossians 2:3

All the riches of wisdom and knowledge are stored up in Christ.

Spiritual Principle

All true wisdom is found in Jesus.

Key Truth

Even as a boy, Jesus amazed the teachers.

XLVIII. WHY HAVE YOU TREATED US LIKE THIS?

Luke 2:48 — Anxiously Searching

“When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You.””

“They were astonished.”

They did not expect to find Him teaching.

“Son, why have You treated us like this?”

Mary's words came from a worried mother's heart.

“Your father and I.”

Mary meant Joseph.

“Have been anxiously searching for You.”

Three days of worry and fear.

Mary's feelings were real and understandable.

Cross References

1 Samuel 1:22

> Hannah did not go up. She told her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord.”

Genesis 37:10

> His father scolded him and said, “What kind of dream is this?”

Mark 3:31

> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent someone in to call Him.

Spiritual Principle

Even faithful parents struggle to understand God's plans for their children.

Key Truth

Mary's worry showed real love.

XLIX. MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

Luke 2:49 — The First Recorded Words of Jesus

““Why were you searching for Me?” He asked. “Didn't you know I had to be about My Father's business?””

These are the first words of Jesus recorded in the Gospels.

“Why were you searching for Me?”

Not rude, but surprised.

Where else would He be?

“Didn't you know I had to be about My Father's business?”

The words can also be understood as “in My Father's house.”

Both are true.

Mary said, “Your father.”

Jesus said, “My Father.”

He knew who He was.

God was His Father.

Cross References

John 2:16

> He told those selling doves, “Get these out of here! Stop turning My Father's house into a market!”

Malachi 3:1

> The Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to His temple.

Psalm 27:4

> I have asked the Lord for just one thing, and it is what I want most: to stay in His house every day of my life, gazing at how wonderful He is and spending time with Him in His temple.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' first priority was His Father's will.

Key Truth

Even at twelve, Jesus knew He was the Son of God.

L. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND

Luke 2:50 — What He Was Saying

“But they did not understand what He was saying to them.”

Even Mary and Joseph did not fully understand.

They had heard angels.

They knew His birth was a miracle.

Yet they were still learning who He was.

Understanding Jesus takes time.

Cross References

Mark 9:32

> But they did not understand what He meant, and they were afraid to ask Him.

John 10:6

> Jesus told them this story, but they did not understand what He was saying.

John 12:16

> At first His followers did not understand these things. But after Jesus was glorified, they remembered.

Spiritual Principle

Understanding Jesus is a lifelong journey.

Key Truth

We may not understand everything at once, but we can keep trusting.

LI. HE WAS OBEDIENT TO THEM

Luke 2:51 — Mary Treasured These Things

“Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

“Then He went down to Nazareth with them.”

The Son of God went home.

“And was obedient to them.”

The One who made the world obeyed His earthly parents.

He knew His Father's business.

And part of His Father's business was honoring His mother and father.

“His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

Again Mary kept and pondered.

Cross References

Genesis 37:11

> His father kept these things in mind.

Exodus 20:12

> Show respect to your father and your mother. Then you will live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:1

> Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.

Spiritual Principle

Devotion to God includes honoring parents.

Key Truth

The Son of God lived an obedient life in an ordinary home.

LII. JESUS GREW

Luke 2:52 — In Wisdom, Stature, and Favor

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Jesus grew in four ways.

“In wisdom.”

Mentally.

“And stature.”

Physically.

“And in favor with God.”

Spiritually.

“And man.”

Socially.

Jesus lived a fully human life.

He is our perfect example of healthy, balanced growth.

These quiet years in Nazareth were not wasted.

They were preparation.

Cross References

1 Samuel 2:26

> The boy Samuel kept growing taller, and he was liked by the Lord and by the people.

Proverbs 3:4

> Then both God and people will think well of you and value you.

Judges 13:24

The child grew, and the Lord's blessing was on him.

Spiritual Principle

God desires growth in every part of our lives.

Application

In which of these four areas do you most need to grow?

LIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 2

1. God Works Through Ordinary People and Simple Places

“She… placed Him in a manger.”

Principle:

Jesus, the Savior, was born in a manger, and God still works through the humble.

2. The Good News Is for All People

“Good news of great joy that will be for all people.”

Principle:

The gospel is not for a few, but for everyone.

3. True Worship Receives and Gives Glory

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God.”

Principle:

Worship begins with receiving God's gift and giving Him glory.

4. Jesus Fulfills Prophecy

“A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Principle:

Jesus is the promised One, the light for the nations and the glory of Israel.

5. God's Timing Is Perfect

“Sovereign Lord, as You have promised.”

Principle:

Simeon and Anna show the power of patient faith.

6. Jesus Was Fully Human, Yet About His Father's Business

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature.”

Principle:

Jesus grew as we grow, yet He was always devoted to His Father's will.

7. Treasure God's Works and Words

“Mary treasured up all these things.”

Principle:

God calls us to keep His works and words in our hearts.

LIV. TWO KINGS IN LUKE 2

Luke sets two rulers side by side.

Caesar Augustus

Ruled from a palace in Rome.

Was called savior and lord.

Claimed to bring peace.

His empire is gone.

Jesus Christ

Born in a stable in Bethlehem.

Is the true Savior and Lord.

Brings peace with God.

His kingdom will never end.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The world's powers pass away, but the King in the manger reigns forever.

LV. THE WITNESSES OF LUKE 2

God surrounded the birth of Jesus with witnesses.

The Angels

Announced the Savior from heaven.

The Shepherds

The poor and humble, who spread the word.

Mary

Treasured and pondered.

Simeon

An old man who saw God's salvation.

Anna

A widow who gave thanks and told others.

The Teachers

Amazed at a twelve-year-old's understanding.

Key Truth

From heaven's angels to an old widow, every witness pointed to Jesus.

LVI. THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

Luke 2 shows how low the Son of God came.

Born in a Borrowed Place

“No room for them.”

Laid in a Manger

A feeding trough for a bed.

Announced to Shepherds

Not to kings.

Born to a Poor Family

“A pair of doves.”

Raised in Nazareth

An overlooked town.

Obedient to His Parents

“He was obedient to them.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Lord of glory chose the path of humility to reach us.

LVII. WHAT LUKE 2 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is the Savior

“A Savior has been born to you.”

He Is Christ

“He is Christ the Lord.”

He Is Lord

“Christ the Lord.”

He Is God's Salvation

“My eyes have seen Your salvation.”

He Is the Light for the Nations

“A light for revelation to the Gentiles.”

He Is the Glory of Israel

“The glory of Your people Israel.”

He Is the Son of God

“My Father's business.”

He Is Truly Human

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Savior, Christ, and Lord, fully God and fully human, the light of the world.

LVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?

Because of Caesar's census, which God used to fulfill the prophecy that the Messiah would be born there.

Question 2

Where was Jesus laid after He was born?

In a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Question 3

Why is it meaningful that the angels appeared to shepherds?

Shepherds were humble working people. God announced His Son first to the lowly.

Question 4

What three titles did the angel give Jesus?

Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Question 5

What did the angels sing?

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”

Question 6

How did the shepherds respond?

They hurried to find Jesus, spread the word, and returned glorifying and praising God.

Question 7

What does the offering of two birds tell us about Joseph and Mary?

They were poor and could not afford a lamb.

Question 8

What had God promised Simeon?

That he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Question 9

What did Simeon say Jesus would be?

God's salvation, a light for the Gentiles, the glory of Israel, and a sign that would be spoken against.

Question 10

Who was Anna?

An elderly widow and prophetess who worshiped in the temple and spoke about Jesus to those waiting for redemption.

Question 11

What were Jesus' first recorded words?

“Why were you searching for Me? Didn't you know I had to be about My Father's business?”

Question 12

What should Luke 2 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 2 should cause believers to live:

- Making room for Jesus.
- Trusting God's control over world events.
- Sharing the good news with all people.
- Worshiping God with joy like the shepherds.
- Waiting patiently on God like Simeon and Anna.
- Treasuring God's works and words like Mary.
- Putting the Father's business first.

- Growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people.

LIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 2 asks several important questions.

Is There Room for Jesus in My Life?

Or is He still pushed aside?

Have I Received the Good News?

Is Jesus my Savior?

Do I Tell Others?

Like the shepherds who spread the word?

Do I Treasure God's Word?

Do I ponder it in my heart like Mary?

Am I Waiting Faithfully?

Like Simeon and Anna?

Have I Assumed Jesus Is with Me?

Or am I truly seeking Him?

Am I About My Father's Business?

What comes first in my life?

Am I Growing?

In wisdom, in strength, and in favor with God and people?

LX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“No Room for Them”

Bethlehem was crowded.

People had come from everywhere.

Every space was full.

And there was no room for the Son of God.

No one meant to reject Him.

They were simply too busy.

Too crowded.

Too full.

So the Savior was laid in a manger.

The same thing happens today.

Hearts are crowded.

Schedules are full.

Lives are busy.

And there is no room for Jesus.

This creates a powerful principle.

The greatest danger is not always open rejection.

It is a life too full to make room for Him.

Principle:

Make room for Jesus, because the One the world pushed aside is the Savior it needs.

LXI. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 2 brings us to Bethlehem.

An emperor issues a decree.

A young couple travels to David's town.

A baby is laid in a manger.

Angels fill the sky.

Shepherds hurry to see.

An old man holds God's salvation.

A widow gives thanks.

And a twelve-year-old boy sits in His Father's house.

Luke 2 therefore reminds us:

Never be too busy for Jesus.

Never think the gospel is only for some.

Never stop waiting on God's promises.

Never assume Jesus is with you without seeking Him.

Never forget the humility of the Savior.

The church does not need people who only enjoy the Christmas story.

It needs:

People who make room for Jesus.

People who spread the good news like the shepherds.

People who wait faithfully like Simeon and Anna.

And people who are about the Father's business.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people a Savior has been born.

Tell people the good news is for all.

Tell people the light has come.

Tell people that God keeps His promises.

And as you live:

Make room.

Worship.

Treasure.

Grow.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus into the world.

Thank You that You rule over kings and empires.

Thank You that the Savior was born in humility.

Thank You for the good news of great joy for all people.

Thank You for the angels' song of glory and peace.

Thank You for the faithful waiting of Simeon and Anna.

Thank You that Jesus is the light for the nations.

Thank You that He grew up as one of us.

Forgive us when we have made no room for Jesus.

Forgive us when we have been too busy to seek Him.

Forgive us when we have kept the good news to ourselves.

Forgive us when we have assumed He was with us without seeking Him.

Help us treasure Your words like Mary.

Help us praise You like the shepherds.

Help us wait patiently like Simeon and Anna.

Help us be about our Father's business.

And help us grow in wisdom and in favor with You and with others.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” — Luke 2:11

Central Truth

God sent His Son into the world in humility, as Savior, Christ, and Lord for all people, fulfilling His promises, and Jesus grew as a true human being while always devoted to His Father's will.

Luke 2 in One Sentence

Jesus is born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger, angels announce Him to shepherds who come to worship, Simeon and Anna recognize Him in the temple as God's salvation and light for the nations, and at twelve He is found in His Father's house before growing in wisdom and favor with God and people.