



GPS for the week of January 10, 2021: Luke 2:21-38

“21 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. Jesus Presented in the Temple 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.”

Sunday, January 10:

Action: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? Do you think there is anything you can learn from this Scripture? Have you ever heard a message from God from another? How did you react?

Prayer: Lord, it is easy to make excuses to not do what is required in Your word. Teach me this week that Your word, even if I don’t always understand it, does have an impact on my life. Help me to be open to those around me that could be a messenger from God and be open to hearing what they have to say.

Monday, January 11:

Action: Read Luke 2:21-23: “21 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. Jesus Presented in the Temple 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’, “

Questions: Do you see that even though this was Jesus, the Son of God, that Mary and Jesus felt it necessary to obey the law and have Him circumcised? Do you know that this was the opportunity for Mary to present Jesus to the Lord? How well do you do at following through with making sure your children stay connected with the Lord?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, even though you were free from sin, You still were submitted to the consecration or purifying according to custom. Remind me of this because sometimes I need to go through things that I don’t feel I need. Help me to go through them without complaining.

Tuesday January 12:

Action: Read Luke 2:24-26: “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.”

Questions: Would you like to be like Simeon by being known as a righteous and devout person? Can people recognize that the Holy Spirit is on you? Can you imagine how long Simeon waited? How long have you waited on God to show you something? What has this waiting looked like?

Prayer: Lord, I am not very good at waiting. I know what I want but I struggle waiting on You. Help me to be more patient by trusting You and the timing You have for the things You desire to give or show me.

Wednesday, January 13:

Action: Read Luke 2:27-29: “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.”

Questions: How often are you moved by the Spirit? Do you want to be, even though it might include waiting and hearing things you don't want to hear? Wouldn't you like to have the relationship Simeon had with God being satisfied with what God told him and not wanting more?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, I want to be a person who hears from You and will be satisfied with what You want to do in my life. Give me a yearning for more of You so that I too may hear from You and be obedient to what You are doing and saying.

Thursday, January 14:

Action: Read Luke 2:30-33: “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.”

Questions: Aren't you impressed that Simeon didn't want something for himself when he saw the Messiah but knew that good things would happen for his people even though he would not see it? Wouldn't you like to be the kind of person who is more interested in other's needs than your own?

Prayer: Lord, sometimes I tend to be selfish and want only things for myself. Help me to be the kind of person who want to help others and wants good for the people I know and care about.

Friday, January 15:

Action: Read Luke 2:34-35: “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.’”

Questions: Have you ever been blessed by someone? What was that like for you? Have you ever blessed another with words rather than with actions? Don't you think both kinds of blessings are something that you would like to receive? How about you blessing another today?

Prayer: Lord, show me who needs to be blessed. Open my eyes to those hurting so that I can encourage them with words that you have given me to speak to them. Allow that to minister to them so that they come to know You better.

Saturday, January 16:

Action: Read Luke 2:36-38: “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.”

Questions: Can you imagine a life of worshipping night and day and fasting and praying? Did you notice she thanked God first and then spoke? Would you like to be prophetic? What is stopping you from doing this?

Prayer: Lord God, I know that You did not give all of Your gifts to everyone. But let me be open to the gifts that You desire to give me and help me be aware of them so that I can use them to show Your love and care for others.