

THE DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:20-38 with Matthew 2:1-2

The days after that first Christmas tell us how that event impacted people.

- Let's look at how some were affected

I. THE SHEPHERDS WERE REPORTING - Luke 2:20

A. ACKNOWLEDGING GOD

1. Glorifying Him
2. Praising Him

B. ANNOUNCING TO OTHERS

1. Giving personal details about what they heard and saw
2. Because they traveled extensively, they became the first gospel missionaries
3. They did not worry about uneducated and considered unreliable men (gypsies)
4. They kept on telling even though some were questioning (cf. v.18)

II. THE WISEMEN WERE TRAVELING - Matthew 2:1-2

A. THEIR FAITH

1. They asked and received permission to leave Persia
2. Based on the scant revelation they received they moved

B. THEIR RISK

1. Reputation: In the royal court and among their entourage
2. The Trip: Long and expensive

III. MARY AND JOSEPH WERE WORSHIPPING - Luke 2:21-24, 39

A. ACCOMPLISHING JESUS' CIRCUMCISION (21)

1. The timing: Eight days after birth - See Lev. 12:3
2. The naming: Calling Him Jesus as they were both told to do - See Luke 1:31 and Matt. 1:21

B. PRESENTING JESUS TO THE LORD (22-24)

1. The right time
2. The right dedication
 - Calling Him "holy to the Lord" or "one set apart to God"
3. The right offering (24)

C. CAREFULLY KEEPING THE LAW (39)

Over please >

IV. SIMEON WAS BLESSING GOD (25-35)

A. HIS EXPECTATION (25-27)

1. Awaiting Israel's consolation (25)
2. Anticipating the Lord's Christ (26)
3. Directed to the Temple by the Holy Spirit (27)

B. HIS EXCLAMATION (28-32)

1. Proclaiming God's goodness (28)
2. Now I can depart ... I've seen Your salvation (29-30)
3. This One is a Light to all men (31-32)

C. HIS EXPLANATION (33-35)

1. He blesses a marveling Mary and Joseph (33-34a)
2. And tells of Christ's affect upon Israel and Mary (34b-35)

V. ANNA WAS THANKING GOD (36-38)

A. HER MINISTRY (36-37)

- A faithful prayer warrior

B. HER MESSAGE (38)

1. She committed herself to giving thanks
2. She contributed to Simeon's song
3. She continually spoke to others

CONCLUSION:

The days after Christmas all of the characters we've just considered were back to their fairly routine occupations. (The holiday was over)

But Christmas was still impacting them!

- They were reporting, traveling, worshipping, blessing and thanksgiving

Application:

1. What have we done since Christmas?
2. How will Christmas be influencing us next month?

Might all of our days be lived in light of Christmas!

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