

CrossWalk **notes**

Investigating Jesus

Jesus Presented at the Temple

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

December 31, 2023 / Dan Solofra

What does it mean for me to do my Father's work?

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." **Luke 2:22-24, NIV**

Jesus started his work as our substitute from birth when he lived under God's law.

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." **Luke 2:25-35, NIV**

Simeon's definition of a "good life" was to see and

know God's salvation.

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. **Luke 2:36-38, NIV**

Anna's work was to lead a life of worship.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. **Luke 2:39-40, NIV**

Mary and Joseph's work was to look out for Jesus' physical and spiritual needs.

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ 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." ⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Jesus knew the primary purpose of his life was to be our Savior and he pursued it.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. **Luke 2:51-52, NIV**

All of us as God's children can keep on learning and growing.

MEMORY VERSE

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" **Luke 2:49, NIV**

My next step:

God's work is my work. I will make it my life's ambition to know him, to worship him and to share him in everything I do.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your connection card.

Why are the words of Simeon words that I can confidently say every day of my life?

What is one thing that seems to regularly get in the way of doing God's work each day?

What is a specific role (child, parent, friend, young or old person, occupation) God has given me to do in my life that I will do uniquely as a Christ-follower?