

Now
What?

Luke 2:22-40

Now What

- The Christmas Season has come and gone
 - Some say, “Praise the Lord!”
 - Others had allowed the cares they are carrying to be set aside for a few days
 - Maybe the decisions ahead are calling for your attention again
 - Maybe you have a desire to just get things back to normal
 - After all the noise, celebrations, stress maybe the question, “What now” is calling to you

Now What

- Mary and Joseph have had eventfully confusing days
 - Jesus was born and laid in a manger
 - Angels proclamation – Mary and Joseph not present
 - Shepherds worshipped
- Mary pondered what all it meant
 - **Luke 2:19 NIV**, But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.
 - Biblical Greek word “pondered” - meaning to "throw together," "piece together," or "put things together" for comparison, to understand the significance of events

Now What

- Joseph's question tumbling in his mind would be, "What now?"
 - How do you raise a child angels called, "Messiah, the Lord"?
 - How do I protect this child?...train, teach, raise
 - What if I need to discipline Him, how?"

Now What

- Joseph made a decision
 - “God has appointed me as an earthly father to His Son”
 - “I will raise him, to the best of my ability, as Jewish”
 - **Luke 2:21 NIV**, 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.

Now What

- Joseph made a decision
 - **Luke 2:22-24 NIV**, 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.”

Now What

- This was Joseph's decision – what does this say to us fathers and grandfathers today?
- With the weight bearing down on both of them God reminded them and us today truths that will sustain them in the future

You are not alone

- There is nothing harder than going through something pressing alone or thinking you are all alone
 - No one else understands, appreciates, knows the burdens
 - Then there is the guilt of not being stronger or wiser or past failures
 - Satan has a field day in your mind and emotions
 - Sometimes this happens because we push people away
 - We don't want anyone seeing us as weak or needy or having to explain ourselves

You are not alone

- **Luke 2:25-35 NIV**, 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.
 - **MSG**, “a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel”
 - Simeon has expectant hope or faith or trust

You are not alone

- **Luke 2:25-35 NIV**, 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.”

You are not alone

- **Vs. 30**, “For my eyes have seen your salvation”
 - Notice Jesus hasn’t done any miracles yet, taught great spiritual truths...He is our salvation not because of what He has done but just because of who He is
- **Vs. 32**. “32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”
 - A Savior for all of mankind

You are not alone

- **Luke 2:25-35 NIV**, 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."
 - Mary and Joseph, you are not alone

You are not alone

- **1st Kings 19:9-10 NIV**, 9 And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”
 - **1st King 19:18 NIV**, “Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

You are not alone

- **2nd Timothy 4:16-18 NIV**, “16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

You are not alone

- **1st Corinthians 10:13 NIV**, 13 No temptation (*test*) has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
 - **MSG**, No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

You are not forgotten

- Another thing that happens when walking through difficult times is we begin to feel forgotten
 - At the start many would call and check up on you or give you words of encouragement, maybe bring food
 - But those times get further apart as you walk further through your difficult times
 - “Simion, Mary, there will be times ahead when you will question Jesus’ path. There will be times when it feels like a sword has pierced your heart. Always remember, you are not forgotten.”

You are not forgotten

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

You are not forgotten

- It may seem at times that you have been forgotten, unnoticed, uncared for, forsaken
- Remember a woman named Anna
 - Lost her husband after 7 years of marriage
 - Has spent the last 50+ years serving others in the temple
 - She also was looking forward to the Messiah as promised

You are not forgotten

- Asher was one of the 10 tribes of Israel that are called, “The lost tribes of Israel” after being carried away by Assyria
 - Hopelessly lost and never to recover – they say
 - We see here, God has not forgotten about the small tribe of Asher even if no one else can point to it
- We can point to two demon possessed Gentile men living in a cemetery, not forgotten
- Or a Samaritan women getting water at noon, not forgotten

You are not forgotten

- Even Jesus experienced that emotion of being forsaken
 - **Mark 15:33-34 NIV**, 33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).
 - But His Heavenly Father did not forsake Him and leave Him in the grave
- From God’s perspective child of God, you will never be forgotten

Now What

- Luke is presenting the humanity of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 - So there was no room for Magi and Egypt like Matthew showing a fulfilled prophecy in **Matthew 2:15 NIV**, “fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
- Jesus, Mary, and Joseph understood living in a world of confusion and chaotic at times
 - They accepted God’s understanding and encouragement as He led them along the way

Now What

- Luke briefly summarized their lives
 - **Luke 2:39-40 NIV**, 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.

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