

CHRISTMAS

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THE FORGOTTEN CHARACTER OF CHRISTMAS Part 1 – What Makes A Person's Life So Special? Luke 2:21-25

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Luke 2:21-25 “On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived. ²² When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, 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 just and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” (NIV)

I. COMMIT TO LIVE A LIFE OF GODLY **BALANCE**. (Luke 2:25)

Bible describes Simeon’s character as “just and devout.”

A. The word “devout” describes how we are to treat **God**.

1. *Micah 6:8 “God has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (NIV)*
2. To be humble toward God is to be **submissive** to His Word and Way. It is to listen to no other voice than God. No culture, no creed, no political or social group is to trump the clarion call of Almighty God. Not even our own reason,

our own will or our own emotions are to speak louder to our hearts than the Words of God.

B. The word “just” describes how we are to treat **others**.

1. The word "justice" means to be morally and ethically right, to be fair-minded, to do the right thing."
2. God calls out His people to **speak up** for those who cannot speak for themselves.
 - a. *Proverbs 31:8-9* “**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.**” (NIV)
 - b. *Jeremiah 22:3* “**This is what the LORD says: Be fair-minded and **just**. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!” (NLT)**
 - c. *Isaiah 10:1-2* “**Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ² to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.**” (NIV)
3. We are to treat those within our everyday lives with **justice**.

Luke 6:31 “**Do unto others the way you would want them to do unto you.**”

II. DECIDE TO DEVELOP THE SKILL OF **WAITING** ON GOD.

- A. *Luke 2:26* “**It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.**” (NIV)
- B. *Isaiah 40:31* “**But, those who wait on the Lord will **renew** their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**”
- C. What does it mean to “wait upon the Lord?”
 1. To wait on the Lord means to **be still** before God. It means to stop fighting, stop running, stop panicking, stop struggling.
 2. To wait upon the Lord means that we shift our focus from the source of our stress to our dependence upon **God**.

3. To wait upon the Lord means that we hear what He says and do it.

Simeon lived a life that was amazing and special because he was devout toward God, just toward others, and he was willing to wait for God's best.

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Notes:

Lined writing area consisting of 34 horizontal lines.