

Presentation  
December 28, 2008

***“God Has Mad His Presence Known”***

Text: Luke 2:29-32, 39-40

They were memorable moments for those who followed Jesus: The woman at Jacob’s well, when Jesus responded, *“I who speak to you am he.”* (John 4:26); Jesus, when he asked Mary, *“Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”* (John 20:15) and the Emmaus disciples when they recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread(Luke 24:31) Surely on these occasions, believers felt very close to their Savior and certainly felt his presence, the very presence of God.

There are certainly times in all of our lives when we have felt the presence of God. It may have been a beautiful service, an inspiring sermon or a majestic hymn. Perhaps it was during a very difficult time in our lives and we could feel God taking over the situation or problem. Many visitors walk into this chancel and have the feeling of being in the very presence of God. So it is that Scripture promises, *“Where two or three gather together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”* (Matt. 18:20)

Our text does the same thing, it shows us the beauty of being in the presence of God. As Jesus is presented in the temple, dedicated to God and we hear the word of Simeon and see the life of Jesus we know that we are in-

## **GOD HAS MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN**

- I. According To His Promise**
- II. In The Appearing Of Jesus**
- III. He brings blessings to us**

### **I.**

It was the custom of the Jews, according to religious practice for the mother to be purified from her uncleanness on the fortieth day, as well presenting the first born male in dedication to God. This festival is called The Presentation, because Jesus is being presented to God. There is also a second type of presentation in that through His perfect life of obedience to God and His Law and through His death for us, He presents us to God.

Our text introduces us to two unique people, Simeon and Anna. Simeon is one who has the Spirit in a special way in that he is able to recognize the Christ when he appears, Anna was one who gave her total life in dedication to God in the Temple.

Simeon speaks to words which we know as the "*Nunc Dimmitis*" meaning literally in Latin "now You dismiss". By the way, we have often talked about Simeon as an old man, the text does not necessarily lead us to that conclusion. Simeon's life was now complete for he had seen what God had promised. These words do not necessarily mean that he is at the end of his life. Rather he has received the promise of God's word to him.

As we hear the rejoicing of Simeon, we are reminded of how God keeps his promises to us. As we look through the pages of Scripture and the life of our

Savior, we can join with Simeon as he says, “*For my eyes have seen your salvation.*”

## II.

St. Paul testified to Festus, “*I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice*(King Agrippa), *because it was not done in a corner.*”(Acts 26:26) The salvation that Christ has accomplished is for all the world to see. Simeon goes on to point out what this will mean in the life of Jesus and also for Mary. Some people of His day would be lifted up by the message that Jesus brought and yet others would stumble over it.

It is the same today, isn't it? It is great comfort to you and me today that Jesus has paid for our sins with his very own life. How many are offended by it? Even Christians. Some noted “preachers” omit the crucifixion because it is too grotesque. They preach instead power or good thoughts as opposed to Christ dying for our sins. Some churches omit crosses, because the cross is offensive to people. Still others, avoid Scriptures complete teaching because it speaks to lifestyles that are popular today.

This is however, salvation according to God's design and plan. It is how He planned to save the world even before the creation of the world, the promise first spoken to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. As Jesus has come into our world, God's plans and desires for us are clearly seen in Him.

### III.

The Parents of Jesus and Jesus Himself are not above and beyond God's Law. Jesus came to fulfill it because you and I are totally helpless at doing that. God wants to bless us as His very own children in Jesus. It is natural for people to think that they can please God by what they do. Jesus appearance and obedience proves that this is impossible for us.

The disciples once asked Jesus, after hearing the strict demands of the Law, if any one could be saved. Jesus replied, "*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*" (Matt. 19:25) This shows God's great love toward us. He makes possible what is impossible and He Himself pays the costly price.

We can be like aged Anna who thanked God for what He was doing in sending the Messiah, Jesus. Both Simeon and Anna were looking forward to God's salvation for His people and saw it's beginning on this day in the Temple.

You and I know that god's plan of salvation is now complete in Jesus Christ. He came as this infant presented in the Temple at just a little over a month old. His lived the perfect live on this earth, died, rose again and ascended into heaven. With Anna and Simeon, we too can fix our eyes on the salvation that God has promised and delivered in Jesus. May we find our greatest joy in this: God has made us His own in Jesus. You and I were worth the greatest price of all to Him and can always feel His presence. By His Spirit may we see Him in all that we do and may He be seen as present in our lives for others to see. Amen.

