



Scripture Nugget – Blessed are the pure-hearted for they shall see God

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord (Luke 2:22-24).

At the appropriate time, in obedience to Jewish law, Mary and Joseph brought Baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem for consecration to God. They encountered two special persons there. The first one was Simeon, a righteous and devout man who had been awaiting the coming of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die before he saw the Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple where the holy family was. Simeon gathered Baby Jesus in his arms, blessed God and said: *“Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32).* Simeon blessed them and told Mary that the true nature of many hearts would be revealed by Jesus Who would encounter opposition and that her heart would be pierced by sorrow.

The second special person the holy family encountered was Anna, the prophetess. Anna was an elderly widow whose husband died after seven years of marriage to her. Then she lived in the temple worshipping night and day with fasting and prayer. On encountering the Holy Family, she recognized immediately the long-awaited Messiah, thanked God, and spread the good news to those around her.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, when Mary and Joseph consecrated You at the temple they encountered Simeon and Anna. Both were special in the eyes of God. In the eyes of their society, however, these ordinary and simple man and woman were of no account. They were not members of the elite religious elders who enjoyed the respect of the people. However, You found in the hearts of Simeon and Anna what You could not find in the religious leaders: sincere love for God, filial allegiance to God’s commandments and a true yearning for the coming of the promised Messiah.

Simeon and Anna dedicated their time to pave the way for Your Coming with their devotion, prayers and sacrifices offered in love and reparation. You flood their open, loving hearts with light and love. Your Holy Spirit was able to work mightily in them. Unlike the learned religious leaders who could not recognize You and instead, tried to kill You out of jealousy, Simeon and Anna had no problem recognizing immediately in You the promised Messiah. Give me the grace to follow the good example of Simeon and Anna in living lives devoted to You and Your glorious Kingdom through an interior life of sincere prayers, good works and sacrifices so that I can recognize and treasure the things that are of eternal value and be freed from the allure of the passing ones. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.