

Day 19: Patient and faithful

Read

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation

that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2.29-32 (ESV)

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Reflect

Luke's nativity story doesn't finish out in the fields or in Bethlehem but in the Jerusalem temple. There two very special (and quite old) servants of God have lived faithfully waiting for the Messiah, and they both get to hold him in their arms. Simeon captured the moment as he proclaimed Jesus 'a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel' (2.32). His words echoed Isaiah's prophecy: God will send forth his servant to be 'a light for the nations that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth' (Isaiah 49.6). This was over 400 years before, Malachi promised: 'the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple' (Malachi 3.1). The Hebrew name for Jesus is Yeshua, which means 'the Lord is salvation' which was one of the ways Simeon knew this child Jesus was the promised Messiah. So when he says that 'my eyes have seen the salvation' he literally means Jesus is that salvation. Worth waiting for! Your challenge today is to be faithful.

Challenge 1

Jot down some of your favourite challenges into your 2019 diary or as phone alerts over the coming year

Challenge 2

Phone a friend you've not spoken to for a while

Challenge 3

Give £5 to place the nativity story into a food hamper for a family in need in the UK this Christmas