



Encounters

A LENT DEVOTIONAL FOR KIDMIN

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ENCOUNTERS: IN HIS COURTS

KEY SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:22-40, PSALM 100:4-5

LUKE 2:22-40

²²When 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”), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Moved 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then 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, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There 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, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming 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.

³⁹When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.



PSALM 100:4-5

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

REFLECTIONS

What did you notice about the LORD in these passages? Where do you see Jesus?

What did you notice about Simeon's and Anna's responses to God? What do they express?

Either in the past or right now, describe something that has been or is a barrier to you entering His courts with praise.



As you reflect on Psalm 100 and on Simeon's words, what are words of praise that you can offer to the LORD today?

Write down three ways you will commit to entering His presence with praise in this coming week.