

Our faith is expressed fully when it is invested liberally.

Isaiah 49:5-6 (NLT) - And now the LORD speaks—the one who formed me in my mother’s womb to be his servant, who commissioned me to bring Israel back to him. The LORD has honored me, and my God has given me strength. ⁶ He says, “You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Isaiah 60:1-3 (NLT) - “Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you. ² Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. ³ All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance.”

Luke 2:21-35 (NLT) - Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived. ²² Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³ The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD.” ²⁴ So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, ²⁸ Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. ³⁰ I have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared for all people. ³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!” ³³ Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about how faith is not just something that we have, it is something that we are also called to invest.

When you thinking about gifts that you have given away, what was the greatest gift you have ever given someone?

When it comes to sharing who God is it can feel like we don’t have enough to share or perhaps that we don’t know enough to share. But God isn’t asking us to share what we don’t have.

Take a moment to read Luke 2:15-20, John 4:25-28, and Luke 8:38-39. What do you notice about the people in these stories?

There is a power in simply sharing what we have. In simply presenting what we have, what we know, what we have experienced and letting that speak for itself. We don’t have to know everything as what we already know has been enough to change our lives, and it will be enough to change others too as the holy Spirit works through us.

If you were to share what Jesus has done in your life in under a minute, what would it sound like? Take a moment to share it with each other.