

After Christmas, Now What?
Luke 2:21-39

Review:

1. Even after Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary remained poor, Anna remained lonely, and Simeon was still waiting for the Messiah to enlighten the Gentiles.
2. But because they saw Jesus with the eyes of faith, Joseph and Mary were obedient to God, Anna was thankful, and Simeon was satisfied.
3. Faith in Christ changes our perspective, even if the circumstances of our lives remain the same.

Reflect:

1. What circumstances of your life make it hard for you to trust God?
2. How does knowing that Christ has already come and that He has promised to come again change your perspective on your problems?

Go further: Read Genesis 15

1. In verse 1, why did the Lord tell Abram not to be afraid? What did the Lord promise Abram?
2. What problem did Abram mention to the Lord in verses 2 and 3? Why might this problem have caused Abram to question God's promise?
3. In verse 4, who did God say would be Abram's heir?
4. To what did God compare Abram's descendants in verse 5?
5. In verse 6, what was Abram's response to God's promise? What did God reckon, or credit to Abram's account?
6. What did God promise to Abram in verse 7?
7. What question did Abram ask God in verse 8?
8. What five animals did God tell Abram to bring as an offering in order to reassure him?
9. What did Abram do with all these animals?
10. What happened to Abram when the sun went down?
11. In verse 13, what did God say would happen to Abram's descendants?
12. What did God say He would do to the enemies of Abram's descendants?
13. In verse 15, what did God say would happen to Abram?
14. How long did God say it would take for Abram's descendants to return to the promised land? Why did God say it would take so long?
15. According to verse 17, what passed between the pieces of Abram's offering?
16. In verses 18-21, what did God promise to give to Abram's descendants?

Summary and Application:

1. Even though Abram trusted God (verse 6), he asked God for signs to reassure him of God's promises (verse 8). How do the signs of baptism and the Lord's Supper reassure you in a similar way?
2. In Abram's time, people would make a blood oath to one another by walking on the blood-soaked ground between the pieces of slain animals. In essence, they were saying, "If I break my promise, may my blood be shed in the same way." Because God was the only One Who passed

between the pieces of Abram's offering, what was God saying? How did God eventually keep this promise?