

Jesus' First Temple Visit Ended a Watchman's Vigil

Written by Bill Perkins

"Simeon took Him in his arms
and praised God, saying, 'Sovereign Lord,
as You have promised, You may now dismiss Your servant
in peace.'" —Luke 2:28–29

Christmas celebrates His birth—
but you may not know this about Jesus:
soon after, His parents carried Him to the temple.

Simeon was old.
Silence had settled into his bones
like dust in an abandoned house.
Yet he listened still.

The Spirit had whispered a promise:
he would not die
until he saw the Messiah.

He did not listen out of habit.
He did not wait out of panic.
He listened because whispers carry hope—
a spark refusing the dark,
faith fanning flame.

Then the whisper came:
Go to the temple.

No procession.
No crown.
No robe.
Just a poor couple
carrying a baby.

Simeon did not hesitate.
He took the Child,
blessed the King,
warned the mother,
and exhaled his vigil:
"Now I can die in peace."

The watch was over.
The promise was held.
Silence to song.

And here is the pearl:
the magi rejoiced when glory reappeared,
but Simeon rejoiced when promise arrived.
Both searched in the dark,
both trusted whispers,
both found light in humble places.

God keeps His promises,
but fulfillment often arrives quieter,
smaller,
easier to miss.
Simeon didn't miss it
because he was listening,
ready to move,
convinced that a whisper was enough.
I want that posture—
ears tuned to the Spirit,
feet responsive,
heart content to embrace
humble arrivals as holy.

Father, make me like Simeon—
listening, watching, obeying.
When Your promise arrives,
humble and easily missed,
teach me to recognize Him,
to take Him into my arms with joy,
and to rest in Your peace.
Let whispers lead me to worship, not worry.
I pray in Jesus' name—
after Christmas and every day.
Amen.