

# The Presentation of the Lord

Luke 2:21-40

## Introduction

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: **To Whom Will You Belong?**

Our Series: *Draw Near to Follow the Example of the Lord:*

1. Jesus' Baptism – the perfect example
2. Jesus' Presentation – a complex but challenging example

## I. His Laws shall be my rule of life (Luke 2:21)

Luke 2:21 - And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### Is the Christian “free from the Law”?

*“in baptism we not only take his merciful yoke upon us – we also make our promise that his Law shall be the rule for the way we live our lives.”*

## II. Our Bodies Are to be dedicated to God's Holiness (Luke 2:22-24)

Luke 2:22-24 - And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

### A. We belong to him – just as he belonged to his Father

Exodus 13 -

<sup>11</sup> ¶"When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup> you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup> Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup> And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup> For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

Numbers 3 -

<sup>45</sup> "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle. The Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD. <sup>46</sup> And as the redemption price for the 273 of the firstborn of the people of Israel, over and above the number of the male Levites, <sup>47</sup> you shall take five shekels

per head; you shall take them according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel of twenty gerahs), <sup>48</sup> and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are over."

### **What happened to the five shekels?**

Luke 2:49 - And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

### **B. We are called to purity – just as he was pure**

Luke 2:24 - and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

### **Leviticus 12 –**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If a woman conceives and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days. As at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean. <sup>3</sup> And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. <sup>4</sup> Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed. <sup>5</sup> But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her menstruation. And she shall continue in the blood of her purifying for sixty-six days.

<sup>6</sup> "And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, <sup>7</sup> and he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her. Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female. <sup>8</sup> And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean."

**The sacrifice of purification was made for him/and her who required no sacrifice, that we might know our obligation to live in holiness all the days of our lives.**

## **III. Let's Make It Real**

A. Smarter than God?

B. "Can't live without ya'"

C. Freed by technology?

The Heidelberg Catechism:

**Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?**

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.