**Building Core Strength**

**Acknowledging His Coming[[1]](#footnote-1)**

4 appropriate responses for people who acknowledge that Jesus has come

**I. The Shepherds – an Acknowledgement of Joy**

**Genesis 46:34** - *…every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians.*

“Shepherds were near the bottom of the social ladder. They were uneducated and unskilled, increasingly viewed in the post-New Testament era as dishonest, unreliable, unsavory characters, so much so that they were not allowed to testify in court. Because sheep required care seven days a week, shepherds were unable to fully comply with the man-made Sabbath regulations developed by the Pharisees. As a result, they were viewed as being in continual violation of the religious laws, and hence ceremonially unclean.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

A. In the context of terrible fear

**Luke 2:9** - *And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*

**Exodus 28:36-38** - *You shall also make a plate of pure gold and shall engrave on it, like the engravings of a seal, “Holy to the Lord.” You shall fasten it on a blue cord, and it shall be on the turban; it shall be at the front of the turban. It shall be on Aaron’s forehead, and Aaron shall take away the iniquity of the holy things which the sons of Israel consecrate, with regard to all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord.*

B. A message of great joy which shall be for everyone.

**Luke 2:10** - *But the angel said to them, do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;*

C. The great news that the Savior had come

**Luke 2:11** - *for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

**1 Timothy 2:5** - *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

D. A message that had to be joyfully shared

**Luke 2:17-18** - *When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.*

**II. Simeon – an Acknowledgment of Fulfillment**

A. Your word is true

**Luke 2:29** - *Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word;*

B. You kept your promise that He would be for all people

**Luke 2:30-32** - *For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a Light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.*

**Isaiah 9:1-2** - *But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.*

C. The means of salvation He would provide would pierce His mother’s soul

**Luke 2:34-35** - *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”*

**III. Anna – an Acknowledgement of Thanksgiving**

A. Was advanced in years

**Luke 2:36-37** - *…She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four…*

B. She too recognized the Messiah and gave thanks to God

**Luke 2:38** - *At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

**Colossians 3:15-17** - *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

**IV. Jesus – an Acknowledgement of Purpose**

A. His parents thought He was with others in the caravan

**Luke 2:44-45** - *but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day’s journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.*

B. He is sitting in the temple listening and asking questions

**Luke 2:47** - *And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.*

C. Mom is being…mom

**Luke 2:48** - *When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.”*

D. Jesus explains that He is the Son of God

**Luke 2:49** - *And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”*

**Luke 2:51** - *His mother treasured all these things in her heart.*

1. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John MacArthur, Luke, p. 155 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)