

Broken Halos “Waiting for a Long Time”- Jim Burgen

December 23-24, 2017

(Scripture References: *Luke 2:22-36, John 1:35-39, John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8*)

Community:

1. How did you end up experiencing Christmas this year? Did you travel or stay home?
2. With a new year fast approaching, do you have any goals or resolutions for 2018?

Core:

1. **Read Luke 2:25-36.** What do you think Mary and Joseph were thinking, and feeling, as they heard Simeon’s words? What do you think your response would have been?
2. Put yourself in the shoes of Simeon. How do you think Simeon felt when He finally got to see baby Jesus—the promised Messiah? What do you think he was experiencing as he was waiting for God to fulfill His promise to Him?
3. Are you currently feeling like you’ve been waiting on God to show up or keep His promises to you? If so, where in your life are you feeling this way? Has the waiting process had an influence on your faith or your trust in God?
4. Have you ever have asked the question, “*Where is God when I need Him to help me?*” If so, explain the circumstance. Did you ask God for a sign and what did you learn from this?
5. **Read John 3:16** and **Romans 5:6-8.** What do these verses tell us about the condition we were in before we bumped into Jesus and what do they tell us about God’s character and His care for us while we’re in the middle of darkness or struggle?
6. Jim said, “*Our faith is not a sign of what WILL happen. Our faith is a sign of what already DID happen*”—a reference to Jesus’s death, burial and resurrection. How does your perspective on life change when you think of Jesus’s death and resurrection as a sign that God *is* good and keeps His promises?

Challenge:

As you continue to celebrate the holidays try to spend some time reading **John 3:16** and **Romans 5:6-8** reflecting on what Jesus has *already* done for you. Then, spend some time praying and thanking God for what He has already done for you—as well as asking Him for what you need going forward in the New Year to continue to trust in Him...remembering that it may feel like He’s taking a long time to deliver on them.

