

December 20 – 26, 2008
PREPARED BY THE SPIRIT

In this lesson you will learn how to be prepared by the Spirit on the inside of you and through you to be a bold witness.

- I. Two types of preparation.
 - A. Natural preparation.
 1. You prepare for the day by doing things like bathing and brushing your teeth.
 2. You may prepare for an interview, contest, sales, or a purchase.
 - B. Spiritual preparation.
 1. It is important for us to be prepared by the Holy Spirit for what God is doing.
 2. Many people were unprepared and unaware of Jesus' birth, life, and ministry. They were not prepared for what God was doing.

- II. People who were prepared and looking for Jesus' coming – Luke 2:25-38.
 - A. Luke 2:25-35 – Simeon, a just and devout man of God, was waiting for the Consolation of Israel (Messiah), and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It was revealed (revelation knowledge from God) to him that he would see the Lord Jesus before his death. By the Spirit he went to the temple at the same time that Jesus' parents took Him there. Simeon took Him up in his arms and blessed God and prophesied Jesus' future.
 1. To be prepared by the Spirit will put you in the right place at the right time and you will know things to come.
 - B. Luke 2:36-38 – Anna, a prophetess and widow of eighty-four years, did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. Coming in the instant of Jesus being brought to the temple, she gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Jesus to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. God uses women.

- III. We are in the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. Joel 2:27-29, Acts 2:17-21 – “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...” (Joel 2:28). In the last days God will pour out His Spirit on men, women, young, and old.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are you prepared for what God is doing right now and what He is about to do on the earth?
- What are you doing to prepare yourself?
- Share what the Spirit of God is speaking to you.

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Open your heart and speak this to the Lord, “Lord, how can I be prepared and ready for what You are doing on the earth today?”

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE: Joel 2:28 – “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.”