

Esther and Emmett and New Year's Resolutions

(Emmett is writing)

Esther: Hi Emmett. What are writing?

Emmett: Hi Esther. I'm working on my New Year's Resolutions.

Esther: That sounds like fun. What do you have so far?

Emmett: I've got: Have awesome hair!! - I already have that, but I thought I should start with something easy and then kind of build up to the really difficult ones.

Esther: Do you have some really difficult ones?

Emmett: So far I have three resolutions. I rank them as easy, I've got a shot at it, and almost impossible.

Esther: And awesome hair is the easy one?

Emmett: Right.

Esther: What's the 'I've got a shot at it' one?

Emmett: Learn to play a drum!!

Esther: Wow! That's neat. And what's the almost impossible one?

Emmett: To establish world peace – maybe even win the Nobel Peace prize.

Esther: Oh Emmett!

Emmett: I've already disconnected the door-bell at my house.

Esther: Why?

Emmett: So I can win a 'no bell' prize! Get it – no bell prize?

Esther: I get it...but you know, Emmett, resolutions are important!

Emmett: Sure, I know that...how come?

Esther: A resolution is something you intend to do, that you 'resolve' to do. You know, there are a couple of people in today's Bible reading who were resolved to do something.

Emmett: To have awesome hair?

Esther: No, they were resolved to see God making the world better.

Emmett: Really – how did they do that?

Esther: Well, their names were Simeon and Anna. They were both quite old, but they both were resolved to see what they called ‘God’s salvation’ and ‘the child who would redeem the people.’

Emmett: That sounds pretty important. Did they see a child?

Esther: Yes. Can you guess who the child was?

Emmett: Hmmm, well let me think...it’s got to be someone who’s in the Bible...

Esther: It’s a child who was born in a story we heard not so long ago (Emmett still scratching his head), a child whose mother was named Mary and who was visited by shepherds and magi!

Emmett: ...I think I’ve got this one! Was it ...Jesus???

Esther: You’re right! Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple to dedicate the baby to God. Simeon was there. The Holy Spirit had told Simeon that one day he would see God’s anointed one.

Emmett: Jesus!

Esther: When Simeon saw Jesus he said, “my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.”

Emmett: He was pretty poetic for an old guy!

Esther: When Anna saw the infant Jesus, she thanked God that this was the child everyone had been waiting for!

Emmett: Wow! They’d been waiting all that time to see Jesus.

Esther: Waiting resolutely... which means they were determined to see God’s promise in the birth of a child.

Emmett: It was their resolution.

Esther: Maybe we can have a New Year's resolution to see God in our lives in 2021 – see God in people being kind and loving and giving us all hope that the world can be better.

Emmett: I think I know your you're your New Year's resolution should be, Esther.

Esther: What?

Emmett: To tell me how the Bible stories relate to whatever I'm doing.

Esther: I think I already do that!

Emmett: Right... that will be your easy New Year's resolution.

Esther: I'll think about some others. For now, I'll just wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Emmett: Happy New Year...and I hope everyone has at least one awesome hair day!

Esther: Amen

Emmett: Amen.