

Patience and Thankfulness

Luke 2:1-20

- Nouwen says, "We do have a choice, not so much in regard to the circumstances of our life, but in regard to the way we respond to these circumstances...Some people become bitter as they grow old. Others grow old joyfully. That does not mean that the life of those who become bitter was harder than the life of those who become joyful. It means that different choices were made, inner choices, choices of the heart."

■ 2 Cor. 2:14-16

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the **fragrance** of the knowledge of him.

15 For we are to God the **aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

- 1 Cor 10: 9 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did-- and were killed by snakes.

10 And do not grumble, as some of them did-- and were killed by the destroying angel.

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

- **Conclusion: Patience and Thankfulness**
- **Brokenness brings the fragrance of Christ. We have to make a choice.**
- **Do not be afraid.**

