

Luke 2:25–35

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

"Simeon's Announcement"

Luke 2:25-35

INTRO:

The first advent of our Savior touched the lives of many people. One person, Luke, singles out for our attention is a man named Simeon. We do not know who Simeon was. He does not appear to be a significant person in a historical sense. There is no genealogy for him nor is there a job description of any kind. We do not know his age or his religious background. The one thing that we know about Simeon was that he for a moment appears on the stage of history to bear witness to the identity and future work of the baby Lord Jesus.

We will try to ask and answer three questions. First, who was Simeon? Second, we will ask what did Simeon do? Finally, we will try to apply this by asking, what has this to do with us?

I. Who Was Simeon? (v. 25-26)

II. What Simeon Did? (v. 27-35)

III. What Has This To Do With Us?

I. Who Is Simeon? (v. 25-26)

A. “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

We know nothing of Simeon from history, but Luke tells us much about him here in this text. First, he tells us that Simeon was ***“righteous.”*** This speaks of Simeon’s standing before God. Simeon was a man of faith and a man who like Abraham, whose faith was counted unto him for righteousness. His righteousness was not earned righteousness. Rather it was a righteousness before God he received by faith. This seems clear because God would not consider righteousness based on works as righteousness at all.

B. Because Simeon was ***“righteous”*** in the sight of God, he sought to live in a right way. Luke describes this as ***“devout”*** or one who lives with careful respect toward God. We would call Simeon a ***“godly”*** man. Simeon was a man who cared about pleasing God in all that he did.

C. Not only was Simeon ***“righteous”*** and ***“devout,”*** he was a man who lived waiting for the promises of God. We are told that he was ***“waiting for the Consolation of Israel.”*** Simeon lived like Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac in **Hebrews 11:13.**

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

The promises were real to Simeon just as they were real to Abraham and Sarah. The promises of God motivated and shaped his life.

D. Finally, we find that Simeon was under the control of the Holy Spirit. ***“The Holy Spirit was upon him.”*** God, the Holy Spirit, had not yet begun His Church age ministry of indwelling believers. We read how he submitted to the Holy Spirit in that he obeyed Him to go to the Temple to see Jesus. God gave Simeon a special blessing among those who were living at that time. The Lord promised Simeon that he would live to see the Lord’s Messiah.

II. What Did Simeon Do? (v. 27-35)

A. We looked at who Simeon was, let us now look at what he did.

“So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ‘Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.’”

1. When he arrived at the Temple the Lord gave him the ability to know who the Lord Jesus was and he took Him up in his arms and began to speak a prophecy about Him. Here is another testimony as to the identity of this one born in Bethlehem. God had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen God’s salvation. So, as he begins his prophecy, he recognizes that his departure to be with the Lord is imminent.

2. Simeon said the Lord Jesus was the salvation that God had prepared for all peoples. Simeon echoed many prophecies that God gave through Isaiah the prophet. His Messiah would bring salvation and blessing not just to the Jews, but to the Gentiles also! How much Simeon understood about the price that had to be paid to purchase this salvation is debatable. Still, Simeon understood far more than most folks in the Temple precinct that day.

3. Two things will result from this Savior and Lord. First, He will bring revelation to the Gentiles. To this point, God’s revelation had been exclusively for the Jews. Now, when the Gospel is preached, the revelation of the will of God will be to all people. Second, there will be glory that will come to the Jews because Salvation is of the Jews!

B. While Mary and Joseph undoubtedly knew some of this because of the revelation God had given to them, I am sure that they had little comprehension of all this entailed for them. So, in **verses 34-35**, Simeon described in broad strokes what will be Mary’s future also.

“Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, ‘Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”

1. This will not be an easy ride for Mary. In spite of the fact that He is the true Messiah, she will see many reject her Son. Their true standing before God will become evident in their response to Jesus. Some would rise in their faith. Many would fall in judgment. Remember **John 1:10-11**?

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”

These are those who fell over the stumbling block that He was to them.

2. Those who rose in triumph over this world and the tomb are those described in verses 12-13 of John 1.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Which of these groups do you and I belong to? Have we rejected Him or received Him? There is no middle ground.

III. What Has This To Do With Us?

A. Having now looked at the story of Simeon’s announcement to Mary and Joseph, let us try to understand what we should learn from all of this. First, we need to ask ourselves, if God could describe us like he described Simeon. **(1)** Are you and I ***“righteous”*** in the sight of God? **(2)** Are we ***“devout?”*** Do we live our lives in a consistent relationship with the living God? **(3)** Are we living on the promises? Are the promises real to us? Do we embrace them and let them change our lives?

B. Second, have we embraced the truth about Who the baby born at Bethlehem is? Are we embracing Him as our Savior and Lord?

Hymn# 168 ***Who Is He In Yonder Stall?***