

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) & Luke 2:21-40
Singing: 399:1-4 – 40:6 – 257:3-5 – 3:4 – 162:1 – 81:1, 4

SIMEON'S STARTLING PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS

I. Devotion to Jesus will bring division II. Devotion to Jesus will bring suffering

I. DEVOTION TO THE LORD JESUS BRINGS THE GREATEST DIVISION AMONG MEN

A. This truth is startling: the Prince of Peace would be cause of division: Mt 10:43

1. Division is not *His intention*: Ps. 120:7

2. Yet division is result of His *ministry of peace*: Luke 2:35

a. Simeon's prophesied about Jesus' destiny as 'set' by God: vs. 34

b. brief survey of Gospel narrative will confirm this:

- John 6:66-69; 70-71 & 7:12
- John 7:5
- John 7:50-52
- Matt. 26:31-33

c. every church family confirms this: Matt. 13:47-48; 25:1-11

d. your own family may confirm this: Matt. 10:21; Lk. 21:16

3. This division is startling: *but why does His Person and ministry bring division?*

a. Because the unregenerate (carnal) heart is *enmity against God* (Rom 8:7)

- Jesus' standards & ministry are offensive: Luke 7:23; 15:2

- Jesus' teaching about way of salvation is offensive: John 6:53-54

4. Response to Jesus' teaching reveals *the thoughts of our heart*

a. How does the response of 'falling' reveal itself?

b. How does the response of 'rising' reveal itself?

B. Reflect: Has the Gospel of Jesus *brought you farther or closer to God?*

II. DEVOTION TO KING JESUS BRINGS A SHARP SWORD IN YOUR SOUL

A. Mary is not the only one to experience this *sword in her soul* (35a)

1. This happened when she saw what Israel did with her Son

2. This also happens to all who are loyal to Jesus and His teachings: Matt. 5:10-12; 10:35; Luke 6:22

B. Yet if you suffer for Christ and His Gospel, you are in good company: Phil. 2:29-30

INQUIRY TIME: To which king are you devoted: *Jesus or Satan?*

A. Neutrality is impossible

B. Faking is impossible

B. Underestimating Him is impossible

Gems on Persecution

Who more innocent than Christ? And Who more persecuted?
The world is still the same. (John Flavel)

Christ's followers cannot expect better treatment than their Master had. (M. Henry)

Persecution will never cease because the offense of the cross will never cease till all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (W. Plumer)

The fire of God can't be doused by the waters of man's persecution. (A. W. Tozer)