

Scripture: Ex. 20:1-17 & Matthew 10:32-42; 21:33-46

Singing: 227:1-3 – 215:1, 6 – 211:1-3 – 323:1-2 – 425:3, 5 – 238:1-3

SIMEON'S CELEBRATION AT CHRIST'S BIRTH (3)

I. Simeon's portrait of piety II. Simeon's praises about God's provision

III. Simeon's preaching about Christ's ministry

IV. Simeon's prophecy about fruit of Christ's ministry

III. Simeon's preaching about Christ's ministry

A. The Holy Spirit equipped Simeon to a remarkable preacher (vs. 31-32)

1. He proclaimed that God's prepared His salvation (vs. 31; Matt. 20:3)

2. He proclaimed that God prepared it *before face of all people* (Rom. 10:12)

3. None of us are excluded from access to Lord Jesus Christ but those that exclude themselves or those who are hindered from coming to Him

a. compare Luke 11:52 & 14:15-24

B. The Holy Spirit guided Simeon's prophetic preaching through the OT

1. A light to lighten the Gentiles: Is. 9:2; 42:6-7; 49:6; 60:1-3 (John 8:12)

2. The 'glory of thy people Israel (32b): Rom. 11:26-28

IV. Simeon's prophecy about the fruit of Jesus' ministry

A. Christ's ministry would bring *life & death – blessing & curse* (vs. 34-35)

1. Simeon's prophecy is startling: *Behold* (vs. 34)

2. Reality of this would deeply penetrate Mary's mother heart (34b-35)

B. Christ's ministry was not only a revelation: *it was revealing* (vs. 35)

1. Christ's ministry is *God's revelation of Holy Love* (vs. 30-31; John 3:16)

2. Christ's ministry is also *revealing what lives in our heart!* (Is. 8:14, 15)

a. The Gospel stirs enmity: Matt. 2

- b. Animosity is also found in church: John 5:18; 6:66; 7:40-43; 8:59
 - Jesus is a stone of stumbling and offence (Matt. 10:34-39)

C. Who are those that *fall*?

1. Someone who remains (!) offended with Christ and His life and teaching
 - a. Jesus as a Person makes sinners uncomfortable: John 8:7-9
 - b. Jesus' salvation teaching makes uncomfortable: John 6:53-54
 - c. Jesus' cost of discipleship was too high for most: Luke 14:25-27

D. Who are those that *rise*?

1. It will be those who fall first
2. But they will rise like Peter: Matt. 16:16-17 (Rom. 9:33; Ps. 31:1)

APPLICATION QUESTION: Where do you stand in your attitude towards Jesus?

A. Neutrality is impossible – in between option is not available

1. Your relationship to Christ is *real* but may not be *good*
 - a. "I am the LORD your God"
 - as a Father to His (covenant) children: Is. 63:16; Is. 64:8
 - as between shepherd & sheep: Ps. 100:3; 95:7
 - as between LORD God & His people: Ps. 81:10-11; Deut. 7:6
 - b. But if no repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ, then the relationship is *not good* (Heb. 2:1-3)
 - c. How make this relationship good from our side? Ps. 31:1; 32:5

B. Your personal relationship with Jesus is *absolutely decisive* about your destiny

1. Meditate deeply on seriousness of Jesus warning: Matt. 21:33-46
2. Be guided – persuaded by His inviting call: Matt. 11:28-30