

Luke 2:25-35 : Simeon's song

This is the final song in our advent series in Luke. We have studied Mary's, Zechariah's and the angel's song.

What have been some of the big themes from these songs?

The scene for Simeon's song takes place in the temple court in Jerusalem. What were Mary and Joseph doing in the temple court? Look at Luke 2:22-24 & Leviticus 12

What does this teach us about Jesus's earthly family? Why is the type of sacrifice they offer worthy of note?

Mary and Joseph were a young couple who were believers and trusted in God. They were clearly from poorer social status, although as Joseph was a carpenter they wouldn't have been without means. However judging by their sacrifice, they couldn't afford a lamb, they were of more humble circumstances. Nevertheless they were seeking to be obedient to God and obey his commandments. God was preparing a special moment of encouragement for them in the temple court.

What is encouraging about the above?

v25-26 What do we learn about Simeon here? Why does he have good reason to wait on God's promise? Consider Isaiah 40:1-5 as well as Luke 2:26

Simeon is often thought to be an old man, although we are not told his age. Nevertheless he is of righteous and devout reputation and knows the scriptures well and is ready to die so it isn't unreasonable to surmise that he is of maturer years.

How is Simeon an encouragement to us in our own walk with God?

Why is v27-28 a pivotal moment in his life?

The Spirit led him to be in exactly the right place at exactly the right moment. Simeon didn't engineer this and there is no suggestion or reason why he should Mary and Joseph from any other couple.

Why is this an encouragement for persevering and walking obediently with God?

V29-32 What does this song teach us about Jesus?

Consider Isaiah 52:8-10

Consider what it teaches about God's plan for salvation and reaching the world.

How should this song both lift our heads and broaden our vision?

V33 Why might Mary and Joseph be surprised at what Simeon has said?

Mary has heard from angelic sources about Jesus but now this is being confirmed by a human prophet unknown to them. The vision of Jesus has also explicitly included the gentiles here too, the whole earth will receive his light.

V34-35 Simeon gives a further prophecy here about Jesus.

What else do we learn about Jesus from it?

Consider the Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 8:13-15

Jesus is destined to cause division in this world. This is the first hint that not all will be easy with Jesus. There will be a cost.

How is Jesus like a litmus test for our hearts?

What does this prophecy mean for those who follow Jesus?