

**"The Testimony of Simeon"**

**Luke 2:25-35**

**Introduction:** Tonight, we are stepping away from the life of Elisha and we are stepping into a study from Luke. In our study tonight, we are going to look at the testimony of a man by the name of Simeon. We are stepping into Luke 2:25-35 but before we step into the verses we need the background.

Luke's Gospel is a record of straight facts. Starting in chapter 2:1-20 Luke wrote about the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Jesus was the One whom the Old Testament prophets all wrote about.

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

*<sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

*<sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

The message of the prophets was about Jesus Christ, but their facts and their writings were fragmented. In other words, they did not have the complete picture and so when they wrote they each wrote about certain characteristics and aspects of the Messiah.

In Luke chapter 2 Luke is telling all his readers that the One whom the prophets spoke of had arrived. Now we must understand that as he presented these facts about the birth of Jesus Christ there was something which the Old Testament required in order to confirm his writing.

**Deuteronomy 19:15b**

*... at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*

Any facts about someone needed to be affirmed by two or three witnesses. Jesus pointed to the same thought when He spoke of church discipline.

**Matthew 18:16b**

*... that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*

Now getting back to Luke's Gospel, he has presented the facts concerning the birth of the Messiah and so now he is going to present four credible witnesses. They must be credible, or their testimony will not be valid. So, he chooses these 4 credible witnesses.

In Luke 2:21-24 Luke calls to the front Mary and Joseph. They were both instructed to name the baby, Jesus.

**Matthew 1:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.*

*<sup>20</sup> But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

*<sup>21</sup> And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

**Luke 1:26-31**

*<sup>26</sup> And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,*

*<sup>27</sup> To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

*<sup>28</sup> And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

*<sup>29</sup> And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*

*<sup>30</sup> And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.*

*<sup>31</sup> And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

**Now notice Luke 2:21**

Here we see Mary and Joseph's testimony that Jesus Christ was the Messiah in the name which they gave Him.

The next witness which Luke calls forward is the man we are going to look at, Simeon.

**I. Simeon's Character Complimented his Testimony**

Notice Luke 2:25

There are several points here that we need to see.

**1. He was JUST and DEVOUT.**

Here Luke tells us that Simeon was JUST and DEVOUT. The word JUST means RIGHTEOUS. He was not self-righteous, but he was a true believer and so in God's eyes Simeon was a righteous man. He had rested his faith in the promise of the Messiah and therefore his sins were forgiven. The word DEVOUT means he was GOD FEARING or he was one who carefully observed God's Law. This makes his testimony credible.

**2. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.**

This means that Simeon was waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ. He believed the promises of God concerning the future Redeemer and so he was looking for the Savior. The word "waiting" means that he was living in expectancy.

Simeon was used to deliver a message which we shall see and the point we need to see is that his life style complimented his message. In other words, Simeon lived what he preached, and he lived what he believed and for that reason his message has found its way into many hearts.

**Application:**

Many of us have loved ones we desire to see come to the Savior. It is important to know that we can reach them with our words but if our lifestyle does not match our message our message will make no impact.

*The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*

*Are read by more than a few,*

*But the one that is most read and commented on*

*Is the gospel according to you.*

*You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day*

*By the things that you do and the words that you say,*

*Men read what you write, whether faithless or true,*

*Say, what is the gospel according to you?*

*Do men read His truth and His love in your life,*

*Or has yours been too full of malice and strife?*

*Does your life speak of evil, or does it ring true?*

*Say, what is the gospel according to you?*

Let me show you the words of Luke concerning Jesus' ministry.

**Acts 1:1**

*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.*

The order here is very important. Jesus lived the Gospel before He preached the Gospel.

**II. He was Controlled by the Holy Spirit.**

**Notice Luke 2:25c-26**

Simeon had the marks of the Holy Spirit all over his life. He was not indwelt at this time, but the Holy Spirit was upon him. Simeon was in tune with the Spirit and somehow the Spirit revealed to him that he would not see death until he met the Messiah. We are not told how old he was here, but it seems that he was getting on in years.

**Notice Luke 2:27**

We have very few details about what happened on this very day but somehow and in some way the Holy Spirit directed him to the temple on the VERY day that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus as was required by the Law.

**Notice Luke 2:22-24**

Before I continue the thought about Simeon let me just say something about the offering Mary and Joseph brought. It was not a lamb, but it was pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. This shows the poverty of this family. I am reminded that God could have chosen any family he desired but He picked Joseph and Mary to raise His Son which tells me how little value God places upon money. He could have chosen a wealthy family, but He didn't. That was not important, but righteousness and faithfulness was.

Now let us get back to Simeon. Some way the Holy Spirit directed him to the temple on this very day that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus. There were probably hundreds and hundreds of people there. But in the midst of the crowd Simeon will meet Jesus Christ.

**Application:**

When I read this I am reminded that there are many times when God intervenes in my plans because there is some place where He desires that I am to be and it is often so that I can meet certain people. There are Divine appointments in our lives all the time but the

problem is that when God redirects our lives we are too busy complaining because things did not go the way we planned and so we miss the appointment.

**John 4:3-7**

*He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.*

*<sup>4</sup> And he must needs go through Samaria.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.*

*<sup>6</sup> Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.*

*<sup>7</sup> There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.*

Jesus had to go through Samaria because He had a Divine appointment with the woman at the well.

Let us remember that we are the Body of Christ and so we represent Him to the world and He has every right to redirect our steps to where He wants us to go.

**Psalm 37:23**

*<sup>23</sup> The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

**III. He was not Ashamed of Identifying with the Savior.**

**Notice Luke 2:28**

We are not told what happened between verse 27 and 28 but somehow Simeon found Joseph and Mary. Let me remind you that they looked like ordinary people and Jesus would have looked like every other baby. I am sure there were other babies at the temple. God made sure Simeon found Joseph and Mary and Jesus that day.

**Notice Luke 2:28-30**

How strange these words would have sounded to those who were close by, but it made no difference to Simeon. He had seen the Messiah and now he could die in peace.

**Application:**

Simeon was not concerned what others would think of him. He was not ashamed of his Lord and so he would praise this baby in the midst of many unbelievers on that day.

I hope you are not ashamed of your Savior when you have a chance to lift Him up in public. Let me show you what God said concerning the Old Testament saints.

**Hebrews 11:16**

*<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

Let me show you how Jesus feels about us.

**Hebrews 2:11**

*<sup>11</sup> For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

Let us be as bold as the Apostle Paul with our faith.

**Romans 1:16**

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Let us never be ashamed to speak His name or bow our heads in public to give Him praise. Simeon lifted Christ both physically and verbally that day in the temple and we need to do the same.

**IV. He Spoke Truth that was not Popular.**

**Notice Luke 2:31-33**

Here was an announcement that was a shock to the Jews. Jesus was not only the Savior of the Jews, but He was also a Savior to the Gentiles. This would have been very difficult for the Jew to accept. The Gentile nations had inflicted much pain and oppression upon the Jews and for that reason the Jews saw the Messiah as their own. Remember how upset Jonah became when the Assyrians of Nineveh repented, and God withheld His judgment?

**Jonah 4:1-3**

*But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.*

*<sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.*

This would have been the feeling of the Jews of Simeon's day, but he spoke the Truth even when it was not popular.

**V. He Spoke Truth that was Shocking.**

**Notice Luke 2:34**

Here was a revelation that would have been a shock to Mary and Joseph. There would be those who would be against Jesus. They would reject His miracles and His teachings and that would include His own brothers. It was not a popular revelation, but it was True.

**VI. He Spoke Truth that was Painful.**

**Notice Luke 2:35**

I want you to notice that this is spoken only to Mary. Why? Joseph would not be at the cross.

Joseph would not be alive when Jesus died on the cross. At the cross we are told of Mary but not Joseph. So, this pain would be felt by her at the cross as she would watch Him die.

**Conclusion:**

Simeon's words were not popular with some people, but they were the Truth and they needed to be spoken.

The Gospel is not popular with many people, but it is the Truth and it needs to be spoken today. Simeon is quite the example for us to follow in our lives.