



Sermon Title: "Joyous Praise and Sobering Prophecy"

Scripture: Luke 2:22-35

Pastor Chris Fritz

Sunday, December 30, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Note: In love and obedience toward God and His word, Mary & Joseph come to the temple.

I. SIMEON - A MAN WAITING AND LONGING TO SEE THE MESSIAH

A. Simeon reminds us of our need to keep "in step" with Holy Spirit. (verses 25-27)

"...do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God..." (Ephesians 4:30)

"...walk by the Spirit..." (Galatians 5:16)

"...led by the Spirit..." (Galatians 5:18)

"...keep in step with the Spirit..." (Galatians 5:25)

"...fruit of the Spirit..." (Galatians 5:22)

- We live every moment of every day before the face of God! ***Psalm 46:1-2a - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."***
- We can treasure God's presence and grace! ***Psalm 16:1-2 - "Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'"***

Note: Like Simeon, God has given us (His children) great and precious promises!

1 John 3:2 - "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is."

Philippians 3:20-21 - "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."

B. Simeon rejoices in God's good, sovereign, gracious plan. (verses 27-33)

- Simeon could now die in peace because he had seen God's provision of salvation (the Messiah), which was a truth to be proclaimed to all people (Gentiles), and is the glorious fulfillment of God's promises to His people (Israel).

Isaiah 53:10-11 - "Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities."

Acts 1:8 - "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 1:14 - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

C. Simeon reiterates the sobering truth that Jesus is the "Dividing Line". (verses 33-35)

- 1) Nothing that happened during Jesus' life and ministry was a surprise to God.
- 2) Jesus would be opposed because He would be a sign, meaning He would point to something.

John 18:37 - "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world - to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice."

- 3) Simeon helps prepare Mary for the reality of Jesus' coming crucifixion.

Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application...

1. Have you ever missed out on something important because you were distracted by something of lesser significance? What was it? How did you feel when you realized what had happened?
2. Why didn't Simeon miss out (like so many others!) on the coming of the Messiah? How was Simeon different? What were some things that characterized his life?
3. God gave Simeon a very special promise, that of seeing the Messiah before he dies. What precious promises and blessings has God given you?
4. Where did Simeon get the idea that the Messiah was to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles"?
5. As you plan and prepare for 2019, what are some things you believe God wants you to prioritize and focus on? What are some things of lesser importance that could possibly distract you?