

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:22-38

**Sermon Title:** The Narrative: Waiting well

**Perspective**

**Practice**

**Picture from the other side**

**There are some things we learn & experience in waiting that we can't outside of it.**

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:22-38

"waiting for the consolation of Israel"

v25

"waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem"

v38

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

**Simeon’s words reinforce God’s faithfulness**

Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
v29

**Simeon’s words reinforce Gentile inclusion in the plan of salvation**

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”  
v32

**Simeon’s words reinforce the public affirmation of Jesus as king**

that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
v31

“Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”  
v34-35

*“waiting for the consolation of Israel”*

**Waiting on the Lord is the heritage of His people**

**Justification (we are saved):**

We are **declared righteous & brought near** by the grace of God

**Sanctification (we are being saved):**

The **ongoing act of being made more like Jesus** by the grace of God

“We’re growing into who God already says we are”

**Glorification (we will be saved):**

The culminating of grace where **we will inherit the fullness of the promise** & work of God

Waiting well entails being convinced & changed by **future hope**

**God’s past faithfulness is the primary fuel for our present & future confidence**

Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

<sup>4</sup> Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

<sup>5</sup> ***Remember the wondrous works that he has done,***  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

<sup>6</sup> O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

Psalm 105:1-6

### Waiting well entails a **preoccupying pursuit** of faithfulness

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man *was righteous and devout,*  
v25

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,<sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day.

Luke 2:36-37

<sup>12</sup> For there are eunuchs who have been so ***from birth***, and there are eunuchs who have been ***made eunuchs by men***, and there are eunuchs who ***have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven***. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

Matthew 19:12

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,

“The Lord will surely separate me from his people”;

and let not the eunuch say,

“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the Lord:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,

who choose the things that please me

and hold fast my covenant,

<sup>5</sup> I will give in my house and within my walls

***a monument and a name***

***better than sons and daughters;***

I will give them an everlasting name

that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 56:3-5

### **God hasn't forgotten your faithfulness. God will not forsake His.**

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
for he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

**'The slight edge principle'**

**String together some yeses or nos for the sake of the Lord**

*"Religion in our time has been captured by the tourist mindset. Religion is understood as a visit to an attractive site to be made when we have adequate leisure. For some it is a weekly jaunt to church; for others, occasional visits to special services. Some, with a bent for religious entertainment and sacred diversion, plan their lives around special events like retreats, rallies, and conferences. We go to see a new personality, to hear a new truth, to get a new experience and so somehow expand our otherwise humdrum lives. The religious life is defined as the latest and the newest: Zen, faith healing, human potential, parapsychology, successful living, choreography in the chancel, Armageddon. We'll try anything---until something else comes along. I don't know what it has been like for pastors in cultures and previous centuries, but I am quite sure that for a pastor in western culture at the dawn of the twenty-first century the aspect of world that makes the work of leading Christians in the way of faith most difficult is what Gore Vidal has analyzed as "today's passion for the immediate and the casual" **Everyone is in a hurry...they are impatient for results. They have adopted the lifestyle of a tourist and only want the high points**"*

Eugene Peterson. A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

***Who are you on the other side of years of consistency & faithfulness in spiritual practices?***

**Waiting well entails empowerment by The Spirit of God**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and **the Holy Spirit** was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by **the Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in **the Spirit** into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,  
Luke 2:25-28

**Perspective:**

**Waiting on God well is intended to be transformative & life giving**

**Practice:**

**Establish rhythms of reminder & reflection**

**'Rehearsing grace'**

**Picture from 'The other side':**

**Seasoned & strengthened by what dependence produces**

