

7/26/2026

Luke 2:25-35 Sermon Manuscript

- **Introduce myself:**

- Good morning guys!
- If I haven't met you yet, my name is Joseph! My wife and I have a part of Mercy Hill for about five years now.
- I just wanted to take a second to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to preach this morning. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Accountability is super important to me, so if I go into a weird trance and start preaching like Kenneth Copeland, our amazing set up team placed rotten tomatoes under every seat and you have permission to chuck them at me as hard as you can.
- Joey and Nick are out of town this week, and for some reason they trusted me to orchestrate this service. Look, I'm a new dad. I've preached before but I haven't preached on 5 hours of sleep a night for 14 months straight yet so this could well be a dumpster fire waiting to happen. I guess we'll find out together.
- Just kidding guys!
- In all seriousness, I'm so grateful to God that you all chose to be here this morning. I am praying that God uses the time we have together to transform us and draw us near to him.
- And part of drawing near to God is drawing near to one another, so I want you guys to take a minute to turn to someone close by. I want you ask that person their name and one thing they are grateful for this morning.

PAUSE—Take a breath, say a silent prayer for yourself and the church

- Alright, if you all are ready, let's open up God's word to the Book of Luke where we will be reading chapter 2, verses 25-35. If you need a bible, we will have one on the back table ready for you— please take it home if you don't own one. It would bring me in insane amount of joy if you left here today with your very own copy of God's word.
- If you are new to the scriptures, that's okay—feel free to use the table of contents in the beginning of the Bible. The book of Luke is towards the end, right after the books of Matthew and Mark.
- As you guys are finding your way to Luke chapter two, I just wanted to take a minute to give you guys some background information about the incredible story we will soon read.
- Imagine for a minute that you are an ancient Israelite. If you are a man, you might have been a shepherd, craftsman, or fisherman; if you are a woman, you may have been a mother, midwife, or a seamstress.
- Your simple mud brick home is in the Judean hillside where you overlook vineyards and flocks of sheep. You can even close your eyes and picture what that home might have looked like.
- Now, let's give you a name—most American names are stolen from the Bible anyway so this should be an easy one. My name would have been Yousef, Rebeca would have been Rivka—you get the point.
- However, life is not easy for you because you are an Israelite living in a very, very stressful time period. Although you are proud of your spiritual heritage, something has been disturbing you for a long time.
- This is the deal: your ancestors walked on dry ground as God parted the Red Sea for them, the founder of your family clan dined with God on Mount Siani, and your great grandfather's, great grand father witnessed God rescue three men from a blazing inferno—but you...you haven't seen or heard of God doing anything miraculous in your entire life. No booming voice from the sky, no manna from heaven, no prophets, nothing—just...*silence*.

- You are not the only person in family to notice this—in fact, no one around you has heard of God doing anything miraculous in over 400 years! If this were your life, how would you feel? How could you cope? It would be crushing.
- I am describing what theologians and historians call the 400 silent years in Israel's history. It describes a long time period between the prophet Malachi and the start of the New Testament era when the people of Israel were oppressed and scattered by numerous foreign empires. To make matters worse, there were no prophets providing guidance to the people or sensational miracles to give them hope. All they had to rely on for spiritual guidance was prayer, the Hebrew scriptures, the wisdom of Godly men and women in the community, and the memory of God's faithfulness in the past.
- Okay back to our scenario—as an Israelite, most people you know are not content with waiting on God to break break his long silence. Most people around you have thrown their hands up and concluded that God had forgotten about them.
- All except for one man—an old sage named Simeon.
- So let's meet one of the few righteous men in Israel in this time period. So, let's travel to the temple and peek inside to see the the moment Simeon heard God break his 400 year silence.
- Let's read Luke Ch 2:25-35
- **Read Passage:**
 - 25 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.
 - 26 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.
 - 27 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,

- 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,
- 29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant[a] depart in peace,
- according to your word;
- 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
- 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
- and for glory to your people Israel.”
- 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.
- 34 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
- 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”
- **Pray:**
 - Pray for God to open our hearts to what he has to say through his Word. Pray for anyone who feels like they are in their own 400 years of silence. Pray that God would speak to them, even today.
- **Hook:**
 - About six years ago, I met an elderly woman at a Togos named Linda. The circumstances of us meeting were pretty random. I was working for a youth ministry at the time and we had an event going on at a church in Fremont late in the afternoon. For some reason, God really impacted me through the preaching and worship at this event. So much so, that when I got out of

the event late at night I told Jesus, “Tonight I am all yours, if you tell me to do anything, I will say yes.”

- After saying that prayer, I walked about a mile to a local Walmart and started offering prayer to people in the parking lot. Around 10 PM, after getting rejected a bunch of times (I mean, understandably so, since I was emerging out of the dark and approaching people in a sketchy parking lot), I decided to walk back to where my car was parked at the church. On the way back, I noticed an older woman sitting by herself outside of a Togos sandwich shop—which was weird since the Togos was closed. It was in that moment that I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to approach her and start a conversation with her.
- When I approached her, I noticed that she had an open bottle of liquor next to her and her weathered blue eyes had sadness written across them.
- I introduced myself and she thought I was homeless and wanted money.
- I assured her I was not homeless and didn’t want money. I told her I was a Christian and wanted to tell her about Jesus.
- It was at this point that she began to share her story. She told me about how when she was a little girl she believed in Jesus and would pray often. However, her father was extremely abusive—in virtually every way imaginable. She told me that she would pray as her father would brutally abuse her, asking God to rescue her from the abuse.
- All she heard was [pause] silence.

● **Intro:**

- Can any of you relate to this? Something may have happened to you that made you feel distant from God (maybe suffering, unanswered prayer, or an embarrassing temptation) and you have mostly experienced silence from him up to this point and are not sure why.
- The people of Israel were very familiar with this feeling, especially in the centuries leading up to Jesus’ first coming.
 - Just look at passages like Psalm 28 to see what I mean

- The 400 silent years did not happen out of nowhere. They took place after Israel tolerated about 900 years of idolatry, evil, and injustice in their society. The sin of Israelite society got so bad that it culminated in parents were sacrificing their babies on the altar of a demon god named Molech. During those 900 years of disobedience, God sent prophets and did crazy miracles to get Israel's attention and warn them of impending judgement.
- God called out to them and they were *silent*.
- However, not all of Israel was like this. Throughout their history, Israel always had a faithful remnant of people who were waiting on the kingdom of God—people who were not content with hypocritical lip-service to God but rather, a rich relationship with him.
- Simeon was a part of this faithful remnant.
- The two main questions I want to address through today's sermon are these:
 1. Why does God **allow** us to go through seasons where he feels silent or distant from us?
 2. How should we **respond** when God feels silent in our lives?
- I hope to address those questions with my two main points:
 1. God often uses **silence** to **sanctify** us and **pain** to **prepare** us as he gets ready to **reveal** our redemption.
 2. We are to respond to seasons of silence by remembering God's promises and waiting on God with **eager expectation**.
- With that being said, I want to dive into the scripture and examine what it is saying to us today. After that, we will talk about how the text relates to the Gospel, and finish with how we can live out this text in our daily lives.
- Let's dive in!

Exegesis/observations:

- Verse 25
 - “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.”
 - “Righteous”
 - Describes someone who lives in conformity to God’s will
 - Simeon was a God-fearing man
 - He took the law seriously
 - **God is always faithful, kind, good, and just—to be righteous is simply to be a reflection of who God is.
 - “Devout”
 - Means to be “cautious and take hold of well” (Mounce).
 - Simeon was deliberate and took great care in treating God with immense reverence.
 - When I picked up Beca’s engagement ring from a jewelry store 5 years ago, I handled it as if I had just stolen it from gollum’s cave.
 - I clenched it with my fist until my knuckles were white and raced to the parking lot. Once I got home, I could not stop examining and appreciating it.
 - I kept it under lock and key until the day I proposed to Beca—often taking it out to appreciate its beauty.
 - Simeon treated God’s commands to him like a priceless jewel.
 - “Waiting for”
 - Means to eagerly expect the fulfillment of promises (New Testament Greek Lexicon-KJV).

- He was waiting on God to fulfill his promise to comfort and rescue his people
 - He was waiting with some refer to as “attentive expectancy” (One for Israel)
 - “When we are face to face with someone, paying careful attention to them, we are able to really listen” (One for Israel).
 - “Worship is paying attention to God” (One for Israel)
- “The consolation”
 - Means “comfort, solace [or] that which affords comfort or refreshment” (NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon, 1999). “To console is to alleviate grief or to take away a sense of loss or trouble” (Got Questions). Simeon knew that the messiah would be the ultimate manifestation of God’s comfort to Israel.
 - “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for” (Isaiah 40:1–2).
 - The Gospel would bring the comfort and satisfaction that Israel was always looking for.
- “Upon Him”
 - The Holy Spirit empowered Simeon with a special prophetic leading and calling. Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit would rest on prophets and special individuals, but now, through Jesus, the veils of the temple have ripped open and the Spirit floods into every

believer with the same power that the prophets experienced.

- **Reflection on the verse:**

- In this first verse, we see what the 400 silent years did to Simeon—they stoked the flames of anticipation within him. We see that God *sanctified* him in the silence—using it to teach him what it meant to be righteous and devout. How was Simeon able maintain this attitude in the midst of the silence? He had the promises of God as an anchor for his soul. All throughout the OT, the prophets foretold the coming of the consolation of Israel, AKA the messiah. Simeon took this promise very seriously—it sustained him through what were undoubtedly very hard years. Ultimately, it was the Holy Spirit’s presence in Simeon’s life that made this promise so beautiful. The Holy Spirit lights up the word of God in our hearts and helps us see it’s beauty. Having a vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit is vital to staying connected to the triune God in seasons of silence.

- Verse 26

- “It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.”

- “Revealed”

- Has the connotation of an intimate and sacred revelation from God.

- **Reflection on the verse:**

- The waiting Simeon experienced did not last forever. God kept his promise and revealed Jesus to him.
- If you are in Christ, your season of waiting will end soon enough, in the proper time.

- Are you clinging to God's promise to one day abolish death's sting? Your sting will be healed by God himself in New Jerusalem. Are you waiting on God's promise to show his love to you? The Bible says he already has. Are you waiting on God's promise to end the injustice in the world? His army of angels are on standby, waiting on his very word to storm the earth—which he will give in the proper time.
- If you have put your trust in one of the promises of God, he will reveal himself to you in ways that are too sacred and beautiful for words.
- Verse 27
 - “Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required”
 - Why did Jesus have to fulfill the law of Moses?
 - Jesus came to be “born under the law” (Gal 4:4) for a very profound reason.
 - He was born under the law so he could be the only one to fulfill all of it, down to the smallest detail.
 - His perfect behavior fulfilled all of the law's moral requirements and his death fulfilled all of it's ceremonial requirements (Got Questions).
 - If you are in Christ, God looks at you as if you were the most pure law-keeper who ever walked the earth—not because you are, but because your moral record was replaced with someone who is.
- Verse 28
 - “Simeon took him in his arms and praised God”

- “Took him up” means to welcome or receive someone in your arms (Strong’s)
 - By taking Christ up in his arms, Simeon was welcoming the Savior of the world into his life.
 - Christ is the consoler—the spiritual home that Simeon was looking for. Simeon was welcoming the one who first welcomed him. The Gospel invites us to welcome the one who first welcomed us, despite our sins.
- Verse 29
 - “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace”
 - This was the culmination of God fulfilling a promise he made to Simeon.
 - Simeon had waited for this moment his whole life.
 - “According to your word”
 - YHWH is a promise-keeping God.
 - He always keeps his promise, even though he sometimes works on a different time-scale than us. He reveals his promises in the perfect time.
- Verse 30
 - “For my eyes have seen your salvation”
 - “Salvation”
 - “Salvation” or “sōtērion” is an adjective that emphasizes the “direct application of God’s salvation” (HELPS).
 - The Child in Simeon’s arms was the embodiment of God’s grace.
 - We cannot save ourselves.
 - Jesus’ name, “Yeshua” literally means “God Saves”
 - Jesus is THE gift of God the father to the world.

- It's not like God the father created Jesus as some separate being and sent him to earth, Jesus is a part of the Godhead—he is God the Son!
 - That is why we can say that God himself dwelt among us. Your creator is also your redeemer!
- Verse 31
 - “You have prepared”
 - Means an active and purposeful preparation (Mounce).
 - God did not just lazily put your salvation on the calendar like a DMV appointment and forget about it until Good Friday came. In the same way a young man plans to propose to his future wife (secretly shopping for rings, picking out a spot, staying up all night thinking about her, etc.), he was actively preparing to save you.
 - “Sight of all nations”
 - Means that God has not fenced the gentile world from the gift of the messiah. Jesus' coming did not just benefit the Jews, it benefits all those who call out to him.
 - Isaiah 52:10
 - “The LORD has bared His holy arm in the sight of all nations.”
 - This is staggering since most Jews did not want salvation to be extended to gentiles (ie. Jonah).
 - Verse 32
 - “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”
 - “Revelation to the gentiles”

- In this context means the divine act of unveiling something that had been previously hidden (Strongs)
- “glory of your people Israel”
 - One of the most rebellious nations on the earth became the setting of Christ’s redemption on the cross. And one day, they will be the setting of Christ’s new kingdom on earth.
 - “For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?” (Romans 11:15)
- Verse 33
 - “The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.”
 - “Marveling” or “thaumazontes” means to literally be awestruck or astonished (Strongs).
- Verse 34
 - “then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against”
 - “Appointed”
 - Criticism, friendship, betrayal, joy, torture, and resurrection were God’s sovereign call on Jesus’ life—they came along with his mission.
 - “For the fall and rising of many”
 - “This would be shown in the way that Peter repented, but Judas despaired; in that one thief blasphemed, the other believed. Jesus is like a magnet that is attractive to some, but others are repelled from Him” (Guzik)

- “And a sign which will be spoken against”
 - Sign is literally “a target that people shoot at.” Jesus would be the target of great evil” (Guzik).
 - In Genesis, the messiah was prophesied to be the one who would crush the head of the serpent. This is why satan desperately wanted to crush him.
 - ****Notice that these warnings came right after Simeon “blessed them”—a blessing does not exclude hardship. Suffering and pain provides the gritty backdrop upon which God’s grace shines.**
- Verse 35
 - “a sword will pierce through your own soul”
 - “It was important for Mary to know that mothering the Messiah would not be all sweetness and light. It was both a great privilege and a great burden” (Guzik)
 - For all the mothers, imagine how tortured your soul would be if you had to watch your child not only be arrested but tortured right in front of you. Imagine how helpless you would feel—hearing you son cry but not being able to do anything about it.
 - “so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed”
 - The crucifixion of Jesus stripped away the exterior facades of people to reveal who they really were. As Charles Spurgeon pointed out, “Christ’s death revealed the thoughts of many hearts. It revealed the thought in the heart of Pilate, that he loved popularity better than the truth. It revealed the thought of the heart of Judas, that he loved gold better than he loved his Master. It revealed the

thought in the heart of Caiaphas, that he would keep to old customs rather than to the right. It revealed the thought in the hearts of the disciples, and showed what poor timid, trembling hearts they had. Peter's impulsive spirit, too, was revealed in all its weakness by the death of the Saviour. The cross is the great touchstone; wherever it comes, it tests and tries us, even as the crucible tries the metal that is put into it, and lets us know what manner of men we are."

- **Connecting to the Gospel**

- "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16)
 - Jesus knows what it is like to experience divine silence.
 - When he was hanging on the cross he cried out to God the father—saying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34).
 - Jesus, God the son, hung, brutalized on the cross, treated as if he were a sinner. Why? Why did Jesus go through this crucible if he had the power step off the cross and avoid the pain of being God-forsaken? The answer is found in Hebrews chapter 12:
 - "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2)
 - What was the joy set before him?

- I think it was to lead a host of captives into the presence of God with him.
 - God is a giving God. He wanted to give the love that he already had inherent within his triune nature to you.
 - Talk about the resurrection and second coming.
- **Application**
 - Why does God sometimes allow fog to cloud our vision of him?
 - Whether or not you notice your obscured vision of God reveals your heart towards him
 - A heart that does not love God does not care if it cannot see him
 - A heart that loves God will wake up in the fog and notice that something is wrong. That fog will collect like dew on your heart and water a renewed seed of desire for God.
 - That seed of desire will germinate under the dim fog until you wake up one day to find the fog gone and the son of God's face beaming upon you—ready to thrust that little seed sky bound, and in the right time, ready to produce fruit.
 - So if you are in a season of waiting for God to speak, be patient, anchor yourself in his promises, and wait for him with eager expectation.
 - [Come up with action steps]
- **Circle back to story:**
 - Talk about the joy the woman had when we finished our convo.
 - Talk about what Simeon's name means
 - God has heard
- **Call to repent :**
 - Admit
 - Admit that we have stolen worship that belongs to God and given it to lesser things
 - Repent

- Confess the ways you have fallen short and ask God for forgiveness
 - Believe
 - That what Jesus did on the cross was enough for you.
 - Accept
 - Accept his Grace which was poured out for you on the cross
- **Invitation:**
 - Invitation for believers and non believers
 - If you would like to repent of your sins and embrace the gift of God's Grace by placing your faith in Jesus, come up to us in the back and we would love to talk to you and pray for you.
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- **Pray**