

Songs of Christmas ~ Simeon's Song ~12/16-17/2023 Luke 2:25-35

Big Idea

From Simeon's song, we learn how to wait for the promises of God, and we know how to recognize Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of all of the promises of God.

Getting Started

We all hate waiting. What was the hardest thing to wait for when you were a child?

Now that you are an adult, what is your waiting challenge? Traffic? Lines at the store? Lines at a government office?

Learn

|HAVE SOMEONE READ LUKE 2:25-35

Who is Simeon?

Simeon is a little-known character in the Bible. You have just read his entire story. But, in Simeon's song, we learn a lot about how to sing our song. As we discuss this song, focus your heart on one promise, one prayer you are waiting on God to answer.

How Do You Wait?

1. Walk with God

A man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. (Lk 2:25)

The Holy Spirit was with Simeon and had told him that he wouldn't die until he had seen the Messiah, whom the Lord would send. (Luke 2:25-26)

Simeon was devout. As a devout Jew, he prayed daily and gave charity to the poor. Simeon attended his synagogue at least once a week. He studied the scrolls and memorized passages of Scripture. Simeon was at the temple often and celebrated all the religious holidays as the law of Moses commanded.

How would the people close to you describe your walk with God?

What are your regular spiritual practices that keep you walking close to God?

2. Cling to God's Biblical Promises

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, **as you have promised**, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. (Luke 2:28-29)

What is, for you, the one most important promise from God you are clinging to?

3. Remember God's Goodness

He was waiting for the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25)

In your waiting, what is your focus? How long you have been waiting or how faithful God is?

How Will You Know the Messiah?

What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?

1. His Salvation is for Everyone

My eyes have seen your **salvation**, which you have prepared in the sight of **all nations**: a light for revelation to the **Gentiles** and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32)

Jesus is God's salvation for everyone. Who are you praying for?

2. He Is the <u>Dividing</u> Line of All Humanity

This Child is destined to cause the **falling and rising** of many (Luke 2:34)

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

HAVE SOMEONE READ JOHN 3:18.

From Luke 2:34 and John 3:18, what do you learn about Jesus?

Do you really believe Jesus is the dividing line for all of humanity? If you do, how does that affect your prayer life and your witness?

3. He will be Rejected and Suffer

He will be a sign that will expose the thoughts of those who reject Him. And a sword will pierce your heart also." (Luke 2:34-35)

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, who for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross (Hebrews 12:2)

HAVE SOMEONE READ HEBREWS 12:2.

What do you learn about Jesus from Luke 2:34-35 and Hebrews 12:2?

What do Jesus' actions teach us about rejection and suffering?

Apply

Who are you praying for?

What promises are you claiming?

How does Jesus enter into your life goals?

Where do you find hope as you wait for God's promises?

Pray

Father, thank you for Simeon's example of focus and patience. Teach us to wait and not lose heart. Teach us to focus on You as we wait for You to fulfill Your promises. To You be the glory! In Jesus' name, amen.