

# ***Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart***

## ***Part 2- "A Sword Will Pierce Your Soul"***

Luke 2:22–40

### **I. OPENING: THE FIRST PROPHETIC WOUND**

Sermon 1 ended with light in a manger.

Sermon 2 will end with a sword in a mother's soul.

Before Jesus heals anyone.

Before He preaches.

Before He performs a miracle.

God allows the first prophecy spoken over Him to be about:

- division
- rejection
- suffering
- and a pierced heart.

? Think about what this is telling us: something crucial and foundational of the call on our lives as He intends for us to prepare for eternity?

Even at His birth, death already shadows the mission.

The Gospel does not begin with victory. It begins with prophetic pain.

### **II. SIMEON: A MAN WHO UNDERSTOOD HIS TIME**

Luke introduces Simeon with unusual spiritual language:

***"Just and devout... waiting for the Consolation of Israel... and the Holy Spirit was upon him."***

This is not ordinary religious devotion. This is **watchman spirituality**.

What is "**Watchman spirituality**"- it's a **biblical-spiritual posture**, a way of describing a certain kind of soul that appears all through Scripture.

It means: **living awake to God's timing, listening for His voice, and standing spiritually alert in an age that is mostly asleep.**

It's the opposite of passive faith.

#### **A. Simeon as a "Son of Issachar"**

In the Old Testament, the sons of Issachar were described as:

***"Men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do."***

Simeon lives in that same prophetic posture:

- He is not distracted.
- He is not cynical.
- He is not asleep.
- He is waiting.

Not waiting passively but Waiting with spiritual discernment.

#### **B. Possibly Essene in spirit (if not in title)**

The Essenes were a sect known for:

- withdrawing from corruption
- studying Scripture intensely
- living in holiness
- waiting for Messiah

Simeon reflects that same pattern:

- untouched by temple politics

- led by the Spirit, not institutions
- listening for God, not rumors

**\*\*This is why he recognizes Jesus, while the Pharisees later won't.**

Simeon *understood his time*. The Pharisees knew Scripture but missed the moment.

This is why Jesus later rebukes them:

***"You can discern the weather, but not the signs of the times." (Mt. 16:3)***

Simeon represents the kind of heart Jesus is actually looking for:

Not religious experts — but prophetic listeners.

### **C. A PROMISE FULFILLED: "MY EYES HAVE SEEN"**

God makes Simeon a staggering personal promise:

***"You will not see death before you see the Lord's Christ." (Lk 2:26)***

This is resurrection language already: Simeon is allowed to **see Life before dying**.

#### And notice:

He doesn't find Jesus through research.

He doesn't find Him through rumor.

He doesn't find Him through systems.

***"He came by the Spirit into the temple." (Lk 2:27)***

Simeon is a man who: hears God - obeys God - arrives exactly on time

The prophetic moment: He holds God in his arms. Not metaphorically.

Not symbolically. Literally.

And says:

***"Now You are letting Your servant depart in peace...***

***For my eyes have seen Your salvation." (Lk 2: 29,30)***

This is one of the most profound lines in all Scripture:

Simeon does not say:

"I have seen truth."

"I have seen prophecy."

"I have seen religion."

He says:

***"I have seen salvation."***

Salvation is not a system. Salvation is a Person.

### **D. THE SUNRISE METAPHOR: A MAN RELEASED FROM HIS WATCH**

Simeon is like a night watchman.

All his life:

- waiting
- praying
- discerning
- enduring darkness

And suddenly — **the sun rises**.

He can finally die in peace because:

He has seen what death cannot defeat.

This is resurrection faith before resurrection happens.

Simeon teaches us:

Faith learns to trust God before understanding outcomes.

### **III. THEN COMES THE SWORD**

Now the tone shifts.

Simeon turns from praise to prophecy.

***“This child is destined for the fall and rising of many...  
And a sword will pierce your own soul also.” (Lk 2:34,35)***

- This is the first explicit **cross prophecy** in Luke.

And it is spoken to: Not Herod. Not Rome. Not the Pharisees.

But to **Mary**.

The Greek word for sword: *rhomphaia*

Not a small knife. Not a metaphorical discomfort.

This is a **large battle sword**. A weapon of war.

Meaning:

Mary will not suffer mildly.

She will suffer **deeply, violently, internally**.

Why?

***“So that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Lk 2:35)***

Jesus does not just save.

He **exposes**.

He reveals:

- who loves truth
- who resists God
- who surrenders
- who hardens

Jesus becomes a **dividing line in human history**.

**This leads to ...**

#### **IV. THE MAGNET EFFECT OF CHRIST**

Simeon says:

***“For the fall and rising of many.”***

Jesus becomes a magnet.

Some are drawn:

- Peter repents.
- The thief believes.
- The woman worships.

Some are repelled:

- Judas despairs.
- The Pharisees rage.
- Pilate compromises.

Same Jesus. Different hearts revealed.

This is terrifying and holy:

No one encounters Jesus neutrally.

He either: raises you or exposes you

#### **V. MARY: THE FIRST DISCIPLE TO FEEL THE COST**

Simeon is the first to tell Mary the truth:

Mothering the Messiah will not be sweet.

It will be **cruciform**.

Mary will:

- carry Him in her womb

- then carry Him in her grief
- then stand under His cross

\*\*\*No human being: agonizes more over Jesus' suffering than His mother.

Not just because she loved Him.

But because:

His rejection was her rejection.

His suffering was her suffering.

**Mary teaches us:**

*You can be highly favored by God and still walk through unbearable pain.*

\*\*\*Here is the line that anchors the whole message:

**Resurrection is promised. But suffering is guaranteed.**

Simeon shows us:

You can see salvation. - You can hold Christ. - You can be led by the Spirit. - And yet still be pierced by sorrow.

Christianity never promised escape from suffering.

It promised meaning inside suffering.

## **VI. HEART FORMATION: FAITH UNDER THE SHADOW**

- Simeon models the mature spiritual posture:

He trusts God:

-without control -without timelines -without full explanations

- Mary models the deeper one:

She trusts God **through heartbreak.**

**Together they teach us:**

*True faith holds resurrection hope*

*while standing under the shadow of death.*

Not denial.

Not escapism.

Not shallow optimism.

But:

**Resurrection-shaped endurance.**

This is the essence of battle ready- its essence is surrender and humility even when it doesn't make sense.

***In Closing:***

Simeon shows us what it means to understand our time.

Mary shows us what it means to survive our calling.

Jesus shows us that love will save the world —  
but it will do so through a sword.

Not a sword in His hand.  
But a sword in the hearts of those who love Him.

And still...  
He came anyway.

Because resurrection is real.  
And love is worth the cost.

And the light that began in a manger  
will pass through a cross  
before it ever fills the earth.

This is not a faith that avoids suffering.  
This is a faith that trusts God **through it**.

Because in the Kingdom of God:

The sword does not get the final word.  
The grave does not get the final word.  
Death does not get the final word.

Resurrection does.