

Luke 2:25-52, Life Callings

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. 26 It had been **revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah**. 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, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

1. **Simeon & Anna:** male and female counterparts who function as credible witnesses to the Child.

- a. **Simeon:** Righteous & Devout (v.25); **Anna:** Prophetess; Prayerful (v. 36)
- b. Serve as examples of being faithful followers of God (like Mary & Joseph).
- c. They are supporters of God's Aim & Purposes.
- d. ****Faithful People Get Used By God!****

2. **V.25 "Waiting for the Consolation (comfort) of Israel"**

- a. Comfort = Israel's Deliverance
 - i. Isaiah 40:1-2; 49:13; 51:3; 57:18; 61:2; 66:13

3. **V.26 "...that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah"**

- a. Simeon finished his course and then went home to be with the Lord.
- b. *I wonder how many people finish out their course on earth?*
 - i. Kenneth Hagin said Jesus told him that many don't get through the first phase of their calling. Many die prematurely because of a failure to enter into what God called them to do.
 - ii. Your call on earth can have several phases to it? God might call you to a particular task for a season and then move you into another phase and another phase after, etc.
 - iii. Sometimes, the best days of your life are what lies ahead of you. Just b/c your elderly don't think it's over for you. God has work for you to do here. You'll see this played out in Anna's life.

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, **you may now dismiss your servant** in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 **a light for revelation to the Gentiles**, and the glory of your people Israel.”

1. With the arrival of salvation Simeon’s task is complete.
2. Simeon’s life serves as an example of someone who lived to see God’s final promise fulfilled in His life.
3. V.32, most Jews interpreted the coming of the Messiah for Jews, but notice that Luke interpreted as universal when he says “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles...*”
4. V.32 (NKJV) A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”
 - a. Def. Revelation [Latin revelatus, revelo):
 1. An uncovering, a bringing to light of that which had been previously wholly hidden or only obscurely seen.
 2. The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God himself, or by his authorized agents, the prophets and apostles. (*How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words. Ephesians 3:3. 2 Corinthians 12:1.*)
 3. That which is revealed; appropriately, the sacred truths which God has communicated to man for his instruction and direction. The revelations of God are contained in the Old and New Testament.
 - b. Practical Application (biblical to pray for divine revelation):
 1. Paul prayed this constantly for the church at Ephesus and Colossae:
Eph. 1:15-23 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power... (also see Eph. 3:14-21; Col. 1:9-11)

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 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,
**35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.**"

1. **Conviction:** v.35a *so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.*

- a. The word convict is a translation of the **Greek word *elencho***, which means **"to convince someone of the truth;** to reprove; to accuse, refute, or cross-examine a witness." The Holy Spirit acts as a prosecuting attorney who exposes evil, reproves evildoers, and convinces people that they need a Savior. To be convicted is to feel the sheer loathsomeness of sin. This happens when we've seen God's beauty, His purity and holiness, and when we recognize that sin cannot dwell with Him (Psalm 5:4).
- b. Real conviction of sin is only produced by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that convinces man that Jesus died for sin. It is the Holy Spirit who convinces the unbeliever that Jesus is Savior and that sins are really forgiven for those who truly believe in Christ.
- c. John 16:8 (NLT) *And when he comes, **he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.***

2. **No Middle Ground:** v.35b. *And a sword will pierce your own soul too –*

- a. You either Serve Him or Reject Him.
- b. Every believer faces the sword of separation from the world.
- c. Identifying with Jesus brings pain:

i. Can you think of areas in your life where God has asked you to give up certain things?

1. God is not trying to spoil your fun or keep from having a good time. God is not against those things; but He is against Sin because Sin contaminates, pollutes and destroys your relationship with Him.
2. James 1:27 (NIV) *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **keep oneself from being polluted by the world.***

36 **There was also a prophet[ess], Anna**, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

1. **Anna: Widow** – As a widow you have an advantage that married people don't have; that is, you get to spend more time with God in prayer, devotions and servicing the Lord!
2. 1 Cor. 7:32 (ESV) *But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; 33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, 34 and **his interests are divided**. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to **secure undistracted devotion to the Lord**.*

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And **the child grew** and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the **grace of God** was on him.

1. **V.40a. And the child grew:** In order for God to redeem us from sin, it was necessary to send His son to earth as a man. A man had sinned and therefore it would take a man to redeem us, so Jesus had to be born through the womb of a woman so that he could partake of our nature, though without sin. In essence, he had to become like us in order to redeem us.
2. **V.40b. the grace [favor] of God was on him:** God's favor was upon Jesus throughout His life.
 - a. Grace is God's Good Will and lovingkindness towards another; that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, benefit, bounty.
 - b. Favor, To have God's Favor is to have Him smile upon you!
 - c. To have God's disfavor is to have Him turn His face away from you. (See. Psalm 27:9; 34:15-16; 102:2; 104:29; 143:7; Micah 3:4)
 - i. Num. 6:24 *“The Lord bless you and keep you; **25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**”*

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was **twelve years old**, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their **company**, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they **found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.** 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." 49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them. 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

1. V.41 The Hebrew Bible instructs all Jews to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times a year (Exod. 23:14-17; Deut.16:16):

- a. In spring for Passover (The Feast of Unleavened Bread),
- b. In summer for Shavuot (The Feast of Harvest or Weeks),
- c. In the fall for Sukkot (The Feast of Booths or Ingathering or Tabernacle)

2. V.42 Jesus was Twelve Years Old when he made this pilgrimage.

- a. Twelve was the age when a child was beginning to reach adulthood. This section would give readers an indication of what Jesus' life would center on: The teaching of God, His true Father.
- b. **Infancy Narratives:** Early Christian's wrote to "fill-in the blanks." We do not have much of Jesus' early life, and as a result, other writers appeared outside the biblical record and wrote on Jesus life. Most of which are steeped in myth and reach outside sound doctrine (orthodoxy). These are often deemed as heretical teachings (heterodoxy).
 - i. E.g., Gospel of Thomas
 1. Jesus creates 12 sparrows from clay.
 2. Jesus curses another child & dies for accidentally bumping into him.
 3. Neighbors complain and are struck with blindness.

3. V.44 Jesus' Pilgrimage to Jerusalem:

- a. Travelled in Caravans: Jews travelled in large groups for protection. Men were in the rear typically and women and children were in the front.

4. V.46 Found Him in the Temple Courts:

- a. Jesus' Early Education: Despite being the son of God, he had to be educated since he was also a man. He had to grow up as any normal boy would grow up.
- b. The Temple Courts:
 - i. The Temple courts were great places of learning.
 - ii. Famous Rabbis assembled there to discuss truths among themselves.
 - iii. The coming of the Messiah would have been a favorite topic in their midst, and interestingly they didn't know it at the time, but Jesus, the Messiah was sitting in their midst.