

Heaven Sent: Simeon's First Christmas

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 11, 2011

Luke 2:25-35

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 upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 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: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." 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."

Simeon was...

1. TAUGHT BY THE WORD OF GOD

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.

2. LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

25 ... and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit...

3. OBEDIENT TO THE WILL OF GOD

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

4. TRUSTED IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

God's Promises:

• GOD PROMISES RELATIONSHIP

Hebrews 13:5

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

John 14:16-17

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth... he lives with you and will be in you."

• GOD PROMISES COMFORT AND HEALING FOR THE BROKENHEARTED

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles...

Luke 4:18

"He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to set the captives free."

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

• GOD PROMISES PEACE BEYOND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Matthew 11:28-29

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

• GOD PROMISES ETERNAL LIFE

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'

5. PRIVILEGED TO SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."