



“The Song Of Simeon: *Hope For The Seeking*”

Luke 2:22-35

Icebreaker:

What’s one thing from the past year that you would do differently if you could go back and change it?

The Study:

The final story in Luke’s Christmas narrative is about an old man named Simeon who is told by the Holy Spirit that he will not die until he sees the Messiah with his own eyes. When at last he holds the infant Jesus in his arms, he bursts into a song/prophecy where he tells God that now he can die in peace.

We all will die but not everyone will ‘die in peace’. Whether or not you will be able to die in peace depends on how much you imitate Simeon, who devoted himself to seeking three things in his life.



He was seeking to lead a good life.

“Simeon was righteous and devout.” – vs.25

1. How are all the main players in the Christmas story described?

- *Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:6)*
- *Mary (Luke 1:8-30)*
- *Joseph (Matthew 1:19)*
- *The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-2)*
- *The shepherds (Luke 2:20)*
- *Anna (Luke 2:36-38)*

2. The Bible teaches that “no one is good” (Psalm 14:1) but then also says that there are “good people” in the world (like those we’ve met in the Christmas story), and there are “bad people” (1 Timothy 1:9). The Bible’s not contradicting itself. It all depends on whether we are talking about “salvation” (where *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*, Romans 3:23), or just talking about simple “morality” or “character”.

We said this in the sermon: *“You never see God reveal himself except in judgment to a reprobate heart in the Bible. What we do see is God revealing himself all the time to good hearts.”*

Read 2 Chronicles 16:9a, then discuss these ideas.

3. What’s the difference between seeking a “good” life, and seeking a “rich” life, or a “happy” life, or a “safe” life or a “fulfilled” life?

Am I seeking right now a “good” life?

He was seeking the life to come.

“For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.” – Hebrews 13:14

4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-19. Why is the idea of resurrection (the ‘life to come’) essential to our faith? Why is life without the next life ‘a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing’ (as Macbeth says)?

5. C.S. Lewis said, “*Aim at heaven, and you will get earth thrown in. Aim only at earth, and you’ll get neither.*” Read Matthew 6:31-33, then discuss what you think Jesus, and C.S. Lewis, are saying.

6. Read Colossians 3:1-4, where Paul tells us in so many words to ‘seek the life to come’. Then read Colossians 3:5-17 where he describes the benefits we receive *in this life* when we do this. He mentions at least a half-dozen examples. Identify some of them.

He was seeking the Lord of life.

“Simeon was...waiting for the consolation of Israel.” – vs. 25

7. What are some truths the Bible says about seeking God?

- *1 Chronicles 16:11*
- *Psalms 27:4, 8*
- *Jeremiah 29:13*
- *Isaiah 55:6-7*

8. In the teaching we mentioned several specific ways to “seek God”. Discuss the importance of each of these. Are there other ideas you have? Which of these spiritual disciplines and habits could you improve on? And how will you do it?

Seek him in God’s Word.

Seek him among his people.

Seek him in prayer.

Learn to practice his presence.

Seek him in words/books left behind by other Christians.

Seek him in serving the ones Jesus called the “least of these”.

9. The last time our nation emerged from a global pandemic, it plunged into a decade of decadence called the “Roaring 20s”, which set the stage for even greater suffering to follow (with the Great Depression and World War II). Here we are literally a hundred years later, at the cusp of the next decade of the 20s. What things must happen in our culture to prevent a repeating of history?

After you share for awhile on this, segue into praying for our country and our world and for one another.

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