

SONGS OF ADVENT // SIMEON'S JOY

TEXT: Luke 2:22-35

Simeon may be the most overlooked character in the Christmas story. We know nothing about him other than what Luke tells us here. He was a devout man of God who patiently waited for God to come to rescue his people. God promised him he would see this consolation before his death. As he sees the child Jesus for the first time, he is filled with the Spirit and declares that the light of salvation has come. He then prophesies that the salvation this child brings will come at a cost. Simeon models for us what it means to trust the promises of God and to be captivated by a singular vision for the Gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **HEAD:** Questions aimed at our minds to help us *understand* God's word.
 - This passage features both the humanity and the divinity of Jesus. What verses show us that Jesus is an ordinary Jewish child? What verses show us that he is God's Son? Why are both important?
 - We've seen in a previous passage that the Savior was for "all the people" (Luke 2:10). This phrase would've been understood as "all the people of Israel." According to verses 29-30, who are the recipients of salvation?
2. **HEART:** Questions aimed at our affections to help us *love* God.
 - How does Luke describe Simeon? Do you desire these characteristics for your own life? (v.24-25)
 - Simeon prophesies heart-break for Mary (v.34-35), referring to the crucifixion of Jesus. What does this tell us about the costly nature of loving and following Christ?
3. **HANDS:** Questions aimed at our hands to help us *live for* God (Personally, Communally, and Missionally).

- How does this passage call you to believe and be captivated by Jesus Christ?
- This passage shows us that the gospel is for the nations. What are some practical ways to be involved in bringing the gospel to all peoples?

DIG DEEPER

- Adoring Jesus and Being at Peace, Like Simeon (A Prayer)
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/adoring-jesus-and-being-at-peace-like-simeon/>