

Theme: Simeon is a model of our journey through Advent as he waits, is led by the Spirit, receives Jesus, and then finds true freedom and unshakeable peace, knowing that to have Jesus is to have everything.

I. Intro - Songs of Christmas

- A. Songs of Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, and Angels
- B. We conclude tonight with Simeon's song Nunc Dimittis
- C. This is appropriate for it is said every night in prayer by Christians in many traditions!
- D. His story and song are also a reflection of our Advent journey and life!

II. The Setting: Simeon Waits for Christ To Come

- A. Simeon is waiting and longing to see the Christ
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**.
Luke 2:25-26
 - 1. Simeon has been waiting, looking for the coming of the Christ to rescue the people of God.
 - 2. Simeon knows so much is broken in this world - but He also knew God would send the Christ to deliver us and heal the world.
 - 3. We imitate this during Advent, as we wait, pray, and seek God as we look for the coming of Christ.

B. Simeon is being led by the Spirit

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, Luke 2:25-27

- 1. Simeon is a man of the Spirit, not just religious rituals!
- 2. The Spirit was upon him, revealed that the Christ would come soon, and then specifically led him to the Temple to reveal Jesus to him!
- 3. This is what we also rehearse during Advent, as we ask the Spirit to move on us, to guide us, and to reveal Jesus to us in a fresh way.
- 4. The point of Advent - and all other rituals - is not the ritual itself, but rather that the Spirit would reveal Jesus to us that we might know Him!

C. Simeon recognizes and receives Jesus!

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." Luke 2:28-32

- 1. The Spirit reveals the Christ to Simeon: a little baby!
- 2. Often God works in ways quite different than we might expect, and which many will overlook!

3. But those who have waited, who have been prepared by the Spirit, see God's hand at work - even in a baby!
4. Simeon does not just see Jesus - he reaches out and embraces Him!
5. Simeon recognizes that Jesus is not just another child - He is God's revelation to the world!
6. Simeon recognizes that Jesus is not just another child - He is God's salvation offered to the world!
7. Simeon sees that Jesus is the light that breaks into this dark world, to show that God is offering salvation to those who will not shut their eyes, close their ears, or harden their hearts.
8. We imitate this during Advent as well, as we actively embrace Jesus, receiving His revelation and salvation.

III. Simeon's Song of Freedom

A. Simeon's song is of true freedom

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." Luke 2:28-32

1. The very name of this song is Nunc Dimittis - Now let depart.
2. Simeon's life has reached fulfillment for he has seen Jesus, God's salvation!

3. Nothing has changed externally - he is an old man, Israel is dominated by the Romans, the powerful oppress the weak, the shadow of death still remains.
4. But for Simeon EVERYTHING has changed and he is in total peace!
5. Simeon knows that he will soon die - but he is at peace, for he knows that His Redeemer lives and will raise him even from death!
6. This is true life and true freedom - when we are at peace with God, fully satisfied in Jesus, willing to live or die with Him.

B. The end of the Advent journey - and the beginning of a new year in Christ

1. Advent has been a season of waiting, a season of longing for Christ.
2. The journey ends with Simeon, as we receive the Lord's salvation offered in Christ and find true, unshakeable peace. For to have Jesus is to have EVERYTHING.
3. With Simeon may we say "Lord dismiss me in peace" - whether He dismisses us into many more years of fruitful service, or if He is preparing us for our last day on this earth.
4. Look to Jesus, receive Him, rejoice in Him, be filled with the peace of knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ - neither death nor life, angels nor demons, the present nor the future - in Christ you are secure now and forever!

Simeon's Song of Freedom (Nunc Dimittis)

Luke 2:25-32

December 24, 2024

Candle Lighting/Silent Night/O Come All Ye Faithful

Luke 2:29-32

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; Christology; biblical characters

“Sovereign Lord, now dismiss your servants in peace according to Your word. For our eyes have seen your salvation, the Lord Jesus, Who has come and is truly a light for revelation to the whole world and the glory of your people.” Luke 2:29-32
paraphrase

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, ²⁸Simeon 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.” Luke 2:25-32