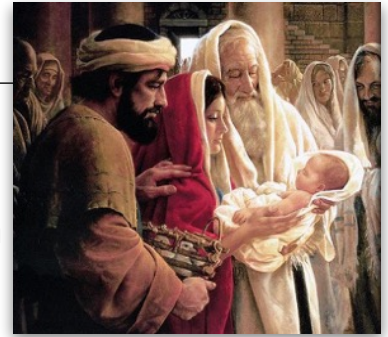


A Servant's Devout Praise

Luke 2:25-30

Last Sunday we considered how the **Savior's Drawing Power** lead Simeon to the baby Jesus when Joseph and Mary brought Him to the Temple to present Him unto the Lord. Jesus would have been about a month old at this time.



Simeon was a **servant** of God (v. 29). In this message we will look briefly at this **Servant's Devout Praise**.

I. **His WALK** (v. 25). Two things characterized his walk: He was JUST and DEVOUT.

A. Being **JUST** involves outward CONDUCT before men. Simeon was morally upright.

B. Being **DEVOUT** involved inward CONSECRATION towards God.

1. **DEVOUT** means "absorbed... devoted." To be circumspect (careful not to dishonor God).

2. Cornelius is another example of **DEVOUT** — A **G** **IVER** (Acts 10:2). Cornelius was a God fearing man who was generous in giving and consistent in his prayer life.

3. No wonder the Holy Ghost was upon Simeon. In this dispensation of grace, the Holy Ghost indwells every believer. But sadly, not every believer walks in the Spirit or is filled with the Spirit. We are commanded to **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT** (Eph. 5:18). The only way to be filled with the Spirit is to **WALK BY THE SPIRIT** and not in the flesh.

4. Can it be said of you that you are "just" in your relationship with others and "devout" in your relationship towards God?

II. **His WAITING** (vs. 25-26).

➡ Simeon means "he who hears." Simeon heard God's Word (cf. v. 29). Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). He

knew what God's Word said about the _____ (Isa. 40). He was waiting for it's fulfillment—waiting on God's promise that he would not die until _____ (v. 26).

- A. He was **ANTICIPATING** the promise—He lived in anticipation of seeing _____ .
- Everyday Simeon would go to the Temple thinking to himself, "Perhaps today He will come." At night his final thoughts before going to sleep, "Maybe tomorrow."
- B. He was **ABSORBED** with the promise. We don't know how long he waited (days/months/years?). But it doesn't matter when you have God's promise. God will fulfill His promise.
1. As Simeon believed the PROPHECY about the coming Messiah (v. 26), we should also believe the PROPHECY about the coming of Christ.

_____ , _____ , _____ : _____

_____ , _____ :

_____ . (1 Thess. 4:16-18). We are looking for that blessed hope! Doesn't that ABSORB you?!

2. As Simeon WAITED for the PROMISE that he would see Christ (v. 26). We should also be waiting for the PROMISE that we will see Him. As Paul said of the believers at Thessalonica,

_____ , _____ , _____ , _____ : _____ . (2 Thess. 3:5).

➡ We should live everyday as Peter said, _____ (2 Pet. 3:12).

III. His **WORSHIP** (v. 28). Worship and praise go together.

A. A PROMISE is RECEIVED (vs. 26-28).

1. Many saints in the Old Testament believed in the promised Messiah, but as Hebrews 11 says, _____ (Heb. 11:13, 39). Simeon not only re-

ceived the promise, he saw the promise... He touched the promise... He embraced the promise.

2. This is not God embracing man, but man embracing God. I thank God He drew me to Himself and embraced me. But I want to embrace Him also.
 - We embrace those we love.
3. True worship is about embracing Christ. You haven't worshipped if you haven't made contact with the Lord. Have you "hugged" Jesus lately. Have you loved on Jesus lately?

B. **A PRAISE is RELEASED** (v. 28— ...”).

1. The word carries the idea of enthusiastic praise. He would say with David in Psalm 103, *B*,
: , .”
 - He got “beside himself” as he realized he was holding what God promised. He shouted “Woooooooooooo!” [That’s the “Greek” translation for .”]
 - Someone says, “That Pastor Hughes must have lots of questions... He’s always raising his hand!” Hey! I don’t raise my hand because I have a question. I raise my hand because I found the answer—And it’s Jesus in my HEART!
2. This is not God blessing Simeon, but Simeon blessing God! I thank God for all His blessings in my life! I am so blessed. But I also want to bless God with my life. More important than God blessing me is me being a blessing to God.
 - ➡ Why do you come to church? Do you come looking to get a blessing from God, or do you come looking to be a blessing to God?
 - He blessed God for who he was holding.
 - He blessed God for what he was seeing—He saw . When He looked into the face of the baby Jesus, he was looking into the face of God in the flesh. No wonder he blessed God!
 - He saw the the fulfillment of God Word (v. 29).

- What did Simeon's eye see (v. 30-)? When he saw Christ, he saw SALVATION!
 ➔ Salvation is not in a church...baptistry...a ritual...a communion cup...good works. Salvation is in a PERSON.

C. **A POSITION is REALIZED** (vs. 28-29—).

- ➔ What embracing does to YOU—It pushes you to background and Jesus out front where He belongs as LORD.
- Christmas is not about a decorated tree in your living room.
- It is not about what's on sale at WalMart.
- Christmas is about Jesus being LORD (v. 11). It is about Him taking over your life.

SUMMATION: Simeon could depart in PEACE since he has seen the Christ! You'll never know true peace until you've experienced the Savior.

Don't leave church until you've "seen" Christ in the music... in the people... in the preaching... in the Word! Don't leave church until you've accepted salvation in Christ. Don't leave church until you've blessed God!

- Can people look at you and tell if you are devout in your relationship with God.
- Are you living in anticipation of Christ's coming? Does it show?
- Are you embracing Christ in your worship.
- Are you blessing God with your life?

A famous actress was attempting her first home-cooked Christmas dinner for her family. Before serving the dinner she told her husband and son, "If it doesn't look good, don't say a word. Just get up from the table and we'll go to the nearest restaurant for dinner." A few moments later she walked into the dining room with her turkey. There stood her husband and son already standing with their coats and hats on.

Our expectations control our conduct. Simeon was a man of faith and believed God's Word. He faithfully went to the Temple every day. Why? Because he was waiting and expecting to see the Lord's Christ. He had faith that God would keep His promise.

His outlook determined his outcome!

Does your conduct show that you believe God's promises?