

The Heart of Simeon

Luke 2:21-38

Today we enter into the heart-felt story of an old man of faith, whose hunger and thirst for the coming Savior, and God's promise to him, had consumed him. Let's pick up the story, v. 21...

I. V.21 **Circumcision & Presentation**- (Legal Requirements met):

- a. The sign of **circumcision** had a two-fold purpose:
 - i. The cutting was a symbol of being spiritually cut off from the rest of the world's ways, sold out to the Lord _____.
 - ii. The removal of tissue is a symbol of sin that is removed by the Lord's grace and _____.
- b. "But Jesus was sinless so why did he need to be circumcised?"
 - i. **Gal. 4:4-5**- Jesus was born under the _____, therefore Joseph & Mary proceeded to follow the ways of the O.T. law (Lev. 12).
 - ii. **Matt. 5:17-18**- Surprising to some, but Jesus came to fulfill the law, _____ abolish it!
- c. **V. 22-24, Presentation of the Child**- (**Ex.13:2**)
 - i. A woman who bore a son was ceremonially unclean for _____ days (**Lev. 12:1-8**), after which she was to offer a yearling lamb & a dove, or pigeon at the temple. If she was poor, she could offer two doves or pigeons.
 - ii. What's recorded in v. 24 ("*a pair of Pigeons or Doves*") indicates the possibility that Joseph & Mary were poor at this point, yet worked with what they _____ to continue to be faithful to do what was right.

II. V. 25-35 **Simeon - His song & Blessing**:

- a. A righteous and devout man, filled with the Holy Spirit, looking for the "**Consolation of Israel**": A messianic title

likely derived from verses like Isaiah 9:6-7; **25:9**; **40:1**, etc... **A couple notable points**:

- i. Simeon _____ the prophecies from scripture
 - ii. He knew that this coming Messiah was the answer to all needs in life, not only for Israel, but for _____ peoples... Thus he knew, unlike most people, that this coming Christ was not just a political Savior.
- b. **Simeon had received definite confirmation** from the Lord that he would not die until he actually beheld, with his own eyes, the Savior. So, it is likely that he visited the temple either daily or every other day, as he was very old and knew he didn't have a lot of time left, and wanted to make sure he didn't _____ it!
 - c. **It is also likely that he endured _____**.
"What are you doing here again old man?" "You're always here yet the Messiah still hasn't come.." *"Why do you still believe this, we've been waiting for hundreds of years for the Messiah"*
 - d. **The day finally _____** (v.29-35)... Simeon was led by the Holy Spirit to go to the Temple, and on this day... THERE HE WAS- like God promised. He took the baby in his arms and blessed God with his psalm: (*Nunc Dimittis*- "*now let depart*") which is a touching insight to Simeon's extraordinary faith...
 - i. "I'm tired, I can now depart in peace"
 - ii. "I saw Him with my own eyes- the one who is Your salvation"
 - iii. "He is for all people, not just the Jews" (*video*)
 - e. **Joseph & Mary** were astonished by what Simeon said... like, "wow, look what this child is producing!! And, look at the faith of this man who couldn't let go until he saw our baby. This is only _____ to them about Jesus.
 - f. **Annah**, a prophetess (possibly 105 yrs old), she was so close to _____ that she immediately recognized the Christ child. God records her confirmation as well.