

“Looking for Fulfillment?”

Luke 2:25-38

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- *“If only I co do this, my life would be complete?”*

“Looking for Fulfillment?”

A. The PEOPLE-- Simeon and Anna

- Luke 2:25-27-- *“And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law”*
1. **Simeon-- a “Spiritually-Sensitive” Saint**
 - Luke 2:25b-- *“this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.”*
 - a. **“Just” or “righteous”**
 - b. **“Devout”**
 - c. **“Spirit-filled”**
 - 1) **Received specific revelation from God**
 - Luke 2:26-- *“And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”*
 - 2) **Carefully led by the Spirit to the temple**
 - Luke 2:27-- *“ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law.”*
 2. **Anna-- A “Spiritually-Active” Senior Saint**
 - Luke 2:36-38-- *“Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”*
 - a. **Questions about her age?**
 - 1 Timothy 5:14-- *“desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”*
 - b. **Carried on a Spiritually-Active Ministry as...**
 - 1) **Prophetess**
 - 2) **Prayer-Warrior**
 - Luke 2:37-- *“She served God with fastings and prayers night and day!”*
 - 1 Timothy 5:5-- *“Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.”*

3. **Both were looking for the same thing: "The Consolation of Israel"**
 - Luke 2:25-- *"And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him."*
 - a. **Connection between "consolation" and "redemption"**
 - Luke 2:38-- *"And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem."*
 - Isaiah 52:9-- *"Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem."*
 - b. **Both were looking for "Comfort"**
 - 1) **Comfort promised by God to Israel**
 - Isaiah 40:1-2-- *"'Comfort, yes, comfort My people!' says your God. 'Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her welfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.'"*
 - 2) **Comfort part of Messiah's ministry**
 - Isaiah 61:1-3-- *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

B. The PERCEPTION by Simeon

- Luke 2:28-35-- *"He took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 'Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.' And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'"*
1. **In general terms, Simeon saw "Salvation" in Jesus.**
 - Luke 1:68-69-- *"For He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David."*
 - Luke 1:77-- *"give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins."*
 - Luke 1:79-- *"guide our feet into the way of peace"*
 - Luke 2:11-- *"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."*
 2. **But Simeon saw the BIGGER Picture. He saw...**
 - a. **The TRIUMPH of Salvation**
 - Luke 2:30-32-- *"For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."*
 - 1) **Light as 'Revelation to the Gentiles'**
 - Isaiah 49:6-- *"I will give you as light to the Gentiles, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."*
 - 2) **Light as the "Glory of Israel"**
 - Isaiah 60:1-3-- *"Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD*

will arise over you. And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

b. The TROUBLE with the Savior

- Luke 2:34-35-- *"Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'"*
- 1) **Instead of being a "Unifier", Jesus will be a "Divider"**
 - Isaiah 8:14-15-- *" a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken."*
- 2) **Instead of being embraced by all, Jesus will be opposed.**
 - John 8:42-- *"If God were your father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here"*
 - Luke 11:23-- *"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me, scatters."*
- 3) **The rejection will cause great pain to Mary**
 - Luke 2:35-- *" a sword will pierce through your own soul also"*

3. Embracing the Savior, Simeon's life is complete, fulfilled!

- Luke 2:29-30-- *"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation!"*

C. The PROCLAMATION by Anna

- Luke 2:38-- *"And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem."*
1. **She proclaimed the message to all who were looking for fulfillment in their lives.**
 2. **If God has given us peace and fulfillment, we also have a message to proclaim.**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20-21-- *"Be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*