

Behold, Simeon!

Luke 2:25-32



Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe
731-845-6104

online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Luke 2:25-32^{KJV} And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. (26) **And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.** (27) **And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,** (28) Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, (29) Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: (30) **For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, (31) Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; (32) A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.**

This is one of the **beholds** of Scripture. The text says, **and, behold!** When Zacharias disbelieved the angel Gabriel concerning the birth of John the Baptist, we are told the angel told him:

Luke 1:20 **And, behold,** thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

When Mary was told that she, even a virgin, would conceive a child, we are told:

Luke 1:31 **And, behold,** thou shalt conceive in

thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

and when Elisabeth, her cousin, was going to bear the child who would be John the Baptist, we read:

Luke 1:36 **And, behold,** thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

The night that virgin gave birth to the humanity of Christ, the angels of God calmed the shepherds of the field by saying:

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: **for, behold,** I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

When you see the **beholds** of Scripture you need to stop and take heed, for here is great truth from God. We now read:

FOCAL Luke 2:25 **And, behold,** there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon;

Simeon means he that hears or obeys. (Luke 2:25)

What does this text have to tell us that is so important that God the Holy Spirit would say, **behold - look at Simeon?**

1. Simeon Was In The Right Place

FOCAL Luke 2:25 And, behold, **there was a man in Jerusalem**

If you want to be blessed by God, you need to be *in the right place*, that is, in the place where God tells you to be. (Luke 2:26)

Simeon was in **Jerusalem**, the city of David, because we read:

FOCAL Luke 2:26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Can it be any plainer? God told Simeon that **he would not die until he saw Jesus**. So Simeon asked himself: "Where would Jesus be, if Jesus were going to come and see me?" The answer was both simple and elegant. If Jesus is coming to Israel, He's going to come to the Temple of God. So Simeon went to the Temple and waited, day after day, for the **Lord's Christ** to come.

If you want to see Jesus, if you want to be blessed by His presence, then like Simeon you need to go to the places where Jesus is to be found. You will not find Jesus in the casinos, nor in the liquor dens, nor in most cases even on television. Where the devil is strongest, where the sins of the flesh are most prolific, where humanity seeks pleasure and self satisfaction above the Divine, you will

not find the **Lord's Christ**. There are those who will say that Jesus often sat at meat with *winebibbers and publicans*. They will infer that it is fine to go to the taverns, to the pubs, to the places of inebriation "so I can witness to them". Fine, if this is what you do. Otherwise, follow the example of our Lord:

Matthew 9:10 And it came to pass, **as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him** and his disciples.

Do not lounge in places where sin is predominant, if you want to see Jesus.

God is a Being of righteous habit. God came to seek and to save those who were lost, but never chases after nor condones sin.

Illustrate Just this day I was driving to Nashville to visit a loved one in the hospital. As my wife and I traveled down the highway the trees looked so black, so gloomy, so devoid of life. The sun was below the horizon, and all was dark. Yet as the sun came above the horizon and the day began to break, the trees seemed to come to life. Light revealed the green that was there all along but only when the sun was in view. Just as the sun travels a set path, God travels a set path. Look for God in places of obedience. Like Simeon, if you want to see Jesus, go to the Temple. Be about your Father's business. If your life in Christ has ceased to be joyous, if you come to

Church and never seem to see Christ, then the advise of Scripture is to *keep coming*.

How many times have you heard a sermon, sang a song, or experienced a moment of worship in the Church and thought, "What a joy this was! Oh, if so and so had only been here! How blessed they would have been, had they been at Church this day!"

How many times do we rob ourselves of blessing because we are not busy looking for Jesus where Jesus will be? I do not look for flour in a tea bag. I look for flour in a flour bag, and tea in a tea bag. Even so, look for Jesus in places where Jesus would be.

Didn't our Lord say to Mary when He was left behind in Jerusalem when only a Child:

Luke 2:49 How is it that ye sought me? **wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**

Didn't you know, Mary, that I must be about My Father's business? Why would you miss Me if you understood this truth.

Jesus *must be about His Father's business*, so if you expect to see Jesus, then *look about His Father's business*. Look for Jesus in the Church, just as Simeon looked for Jesus in the Temple. (**Matthew**

16:18; Ephesians 5:25; Revelation 1:20)

My heart is heavy within me at the number of professing believers who will not go to Church, or who will only go on occasion. Listen Beloved, *Jesus is always in the Church*. Is it not He Who said:

Matthew 16:18 ... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus calls it **My Church** - do you not think that Jesus would be in the Church? Doesn't the Scripture tells us:

Ephesians 5:25 ... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

If Jesus gave Himself for **the Church**, don't you think He will be in **the Church, in His Church**? So many people will plead illness or sickness will keep them from Church, and there are times when sickness may keep you away. God knows and understands this. But understand this as well, **Christ loves His Church, and gave Himself for it**, and He holds both ministers and Church in His hand (**Revelation 1:20**). If you want to see Jesus, go to Church.

But let's not just limit this to Church. There were many who, like Simeon, were faithful to go to Temple, and who yet never saw Jesus.

2. Simeon Was In The Right Spirit

FOCAL Luke 2:25-27 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. (26) And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (27) And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Simeon wasn't just in the *right place*, he was in the *right spirit*. He was a *spiritual man*. (Luke 2:25-28)

We read in verse 25:

FOCAL Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and **the same man was just and devout**

Two words are used to describe Simeon, **just** and **devout**. The first word¹ means that *righteous* or *holy* - this man lived a life separated unto God. The second word² means that Simeon was *careful* with how he lived, pious, or dedicated. In short,

1 G1342, δίκαιος, dikaios, dik'-ah-yos, From G1349; *equitable* (in character or act); by implication *innocent, holy* (absolutely or relatively): - just, meet, right (-eous). (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

2 G2126, εὐλαβής, eulabēs, yoo-lab-ace', From G2095 and G2983; *taking well (carefully)*, that is, *circumspect* (religiously, *pious*): - devout. (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

Simeon was a man who lived *for God and not for man*. He wanted a relationship with God, so he lived his life believing in Him and turning away from sin.

Simeon loved God, so he hated sin. He, like the Apostle, said in his heart:

Romans 6:2 ... How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Simeon knew that:

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Simeon was saved by faith in God. He believed in Christ, looked for Christ, and lived his life carefully for Christ. Look at this pattern in the Scripture:

FOCAL Luke 2:25-27 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and **the Holy Ghost was upon him.** (26) And it was **revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost**, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (27) And he **came by the Spirit** into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

God was **on** Simeon, **revealing** things to Simeon, and **leading** Simeon. Why was God doing this? Because Simeon **believed on God's Christ, spoke to God, listened to God, and followed God.**

If you expect to have a living, dynamic, wonderful relationship with God, that relationship begins by trusting and believing on Him. You do this by *believing on Jesus*, believing that He died for you, believing that He rose again, believing that He has saved you from your sins. We are saved *by faith and not by works*, as the Scripture says:

2 Timothy 1:9-10 Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (10) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

God calls us to salvation, saves us by faith in Christ according to His own purpose and grace. But once saved we, like Simeon, are called to be **just and devout**, shunning sin because it offends our Lord. (Psalms 66:18; Romans 6:2; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Luke 2:25; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

When the believer lives *in the right Spirit* then God will surely manifest himself to him. God is a Person with likes and dislikes. He hates sin, but loves sinners. Do you want to see Jesus? Hate sin, hate it in your life. Hate it like you'd hate a snake or a spider, even worst! Hate sin, forsake it, turn away from it for Christ's sake. Be a friend to God, hate the things of this world. The Apostle said:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (11) **And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

If you wallow in sin you will not see Christ, for Christ does not wallow in sin. Those who see Christ are the **just and devout**, at all times seeking His face and turning from evil.

You will not see God if you are immersed in unholiness. You will not see the **righteous God** if you are living an **unrighteous life**. Saved by faith, the Christian is saved to serve God, not to serve sin. Be about your Father's business, and you will see Christ.

Further, there were many in the Temple that day, but only Simeon and Anna:

Luke 2:36-38 And 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; (37) **And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.** (38) And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

saw Jesus that day. Many *saw* a Child being circumcised, but of all that were there only two saw the **Lord's Christ**. You must be in *the right Spirit* to see Jesus. Many times the professing believer comes to Church out of duty.

You may have confessed your sins, and have lived a **just and devout** life before the Lord. But if your mind is *far away from God* God may come near, and His presence may not be sensed. (**Luke 2:21; 17:20-21; Jeremiah 29:11-13**)

Can this be said of you, dear ones? When you come to Church, do you come of duty, or do you come *to worship Christ*? Simeon was **just and devout**, and Anna **served God with fastings and prayer** - and it is significant that these two saw the **Lord's Christ** and no other.

Mary brought her Son Jesus to the Temple so that He, in the manner of the Jews, could be circumcised:

Luke 2:21 And **when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS**, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

according to the Law that God gave Moses. Our Lord came to **fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17)**, and God's Law to Israel required that the Jewish baby be circumcised on the eighth day following birth. Jewish circumcision is accomplished, not by a *doctor*, but by a *priest of God specially chosen to do this*. Yet even the priest of Israel, in close proximity to Jesus, did not know that this was the **Lord's Christ**. Listen Beloved, our Master has said that

Luke 17:20-21 ... The **kingdom of God cometh not with observation**: (21) **Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Who would have suspected that the **Lord's Christ** would come to live among men first in the form of a baby? The priest who circumcised the **Christ Child** that day thought he was circumcising a mere human baby. All others in the Temple that day had no idea how close to God they were. Only **Simeon and Anna** saw **the Lord's Christ**, for they were in the right Spirit. They waited on God, loved God, worshiped God, looked for God, and

found God. As our Lord has said:

Jeremiah 29:11-13 **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (12) Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. (13) And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

God loves all, and wants to bless all. Jesus wants you to see Him, to know Him, to walk with Him no matter what may come.

3. What Are The Benefits Of Being Like Simeon?

Why should I be like Simeon, serving the Lord in all that I do? Here's one obvious benefit: Death is not fearful to him that loves the Lord. Look at Simeon's words:

FOCAL Luke 2:29-32 **Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: (30) For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, (31) Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; (32) A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.**

If you remember, Simeon was promised that *he would*

not see death until he saw the Lord's Christ. He has done what God would have him do. He has seen Christ, fulfilled his mission, and now is prepared to go and be with the Lord. The great Scottish preacher **Alexander Maclaren** stated:³

"... notice, still further, how Simeon not only recognizes, but welcomes the approach of death. 'Thou lettest Thy servant depart in peace.' Yes, there speaks a calm voice tranquilly accepting the permission. He feels no agitation, no fluster of any kind, but quietly slips away from his post. And the reason for that peaceful welcome of the end is 'for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.' That sight is the reason, first of all, for his being sure that the curfew had rung for him, and that the day's work was done. But it is also the reason for the peacefulness of his departure. He went 'in peace,' because of what? Because the weary, blurred, old eyes had seen all that any man needs to see to be satisfied and blessed. Life could yield nothing more, though its length were doubled to this old man, than the sight of God's salvation."

How can this be? How can anyone not only *see* the approach of death, but *welcome* death? Not everyone can do this, loved ones, but those who have faithfully served the Lord! The great Apostle, seeing the light of death at the end of life's tunnel, stated:

2 Corinthians 5:6-9 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, **whilst we are at home**

³ Simeon's Swan Song, a sermon

in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (7) (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (8) We are confident, I say, and **willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.** (9) Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

The saved of God, the Christian by faith in Christ, **labors for God in Christ.**

As the Apostle said, **we labor that we may be accepted of Him.** If Jesus calls you home tomorrow, will you have accomplished that which God has given you to do? Will you be ready to meet Him, knowing that - like Simeon - you were *about His Father's business*?

If so, then death is no loss, no termination, no terror, but a moment of impending reward. **Absent from the body, present with the Lord!** The Apostle told the Philippian believers:

Philippians 1:23-27^{HCSB} I am pressured by both. **I have the desire to depart and be with Christ--which is far better-- (24) but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.** (25) Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your

HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible Version

advancement and joy in the faith, (26) so that, because of me, your confidence may grow in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. (27) Just one thing: live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith of the gospel,

His glory, and one day you will see Him face to face.

Live your life, dear Christian, in a way that is pleasing to God. Live your life like Simeon and Paul so that, as death approaches, that you see it as a moment of joy and not of dread. Do as the Apostle told the Philippians, **live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.** You serve one Master, even Christ. Be a friend to Him, and He will be a blessing to you. When the night has come the stars come out, but when the sun rises the stars - though they are yet there - are hidden from view. Keep your eyes on Christ. Live for Him, love Him, serve Him, all your trials - though they may remain - will disappear in the light of His radiance. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Believe in Him to be saved. Look for Him, serve Him joyously, and live like you're saved. When death comes you will need not fear. Remember His Words:

John 11:26 ^{HCSB} Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die--ever. Do you believe this?"

Simeon knew that death was no more than a doorway to the Greater Presence of Christ. This is the mind of all who serve Him. We will **never die, ever**, because Jesus has promised this. Serve Him, focus on the brightness of