

Home Group study week beginning 13th January 2020

The Spirit prophesies: The Song of Simeon

What things do members of the group feel they really must do, see or achieve before they can 'die happy'?

Read:

Luke 2 22-35

Understanding

What do we learn of Simeon's character in this passage? What do you think 'He was waiting for the consolation of Israel' means?

Simeon is content that he can 'die happy'. What has made him so content?

In what different ways do we see the Holy Spirit at work in Simeon? How important is it that we, like Simeon, may be 'at the right place at the right time?' How might we ensure that this happens?

In Luke 1, 30-37, we see how God reveals his purposes to Mary. In Chapter 2vv34-35 he reveals more to Mary through Simeon. What is added to that earlier revelation? Why do you think God chooses to reveal these things a few at a time rather than all in one?

Application

Of the few things we learn of Simeon's character is that he is 'righteous and devout'. What does this mean?

In Sunday's sermon it was suggested that God had chosen Simeon for a very rare filling of the Holy Spirit because he was 'righteous and devout'. (This was some 35 years before Pentecost, when Joel's prophecy about God filling all mankind with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled.) God promises us 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people' (Joel 2, 28), and we see that promise fulfilled from the Day of Pentecost onwards, right through to today. So do we need to be 'righteous and devout' to experience Holy Spirit in our lives? What difference might being 'righteous and devout' make in the way we experience Holy Spirit?

In Luke 2 28-32 we read the words of Simeon's song, the *Nunc Dimittis* (which means 'Now you dismiss') which Simeon sings over Jesus as he holds him in his arms. Discuss together how we can see, experience and know the same things as Simeon as we hold on to Jesus.

In verses 34-35 Simeon reveals more pieces of the 'jigsaw' that makes up a picture of Jesus, following on from the revelations to Mary in Luke 1, 30-37. What does that say about the way Holy Spirit sometimes reveals things to (and through) us?

What are the fruit of the spirit? (Cribsheet! *Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*). We can think of the 'gifts' and the 'fruit' of the Spirit being different things. But how is the fruit shown by Simeon in the prophetic content of this passage?

Pray

For an infilling of the Holy Spirit, that we may know the gift of prophecy and we may know the leading of God. Pray too for members of the group who wish to know more of righteousness and devoutness (devotion), that the Spirit may be able to use them in new and more powerful ways.