

“Simeon - the spirit filled man”

Welcome

Opening Scripture Ps 86:11-13

Hymn: MP 94 Come let us sing of a wonderful love

Bible Reading: Isaiah 12 (p.697)

Prayer of adoration and praise.

Light the first advent candle - Light

Children’s talk Road signs

Notices Bible Study and prayer, Joyce Cooke, Leaflets,

Choruses MP 66 Broken for me, broken for you

Communion

Main reading: Luke 2:21-35 (p.1028) 2 Peter 3:1/10 - end (p. 1223)

Hymn: MP 243 How firm a foundation

Sermon “Simeon - the spirit filled man”

Hymn MP 499 O happy Day

Close

Listen to today’s sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_12_05.mp3](#).

See previous sermon on Simeon 06_12_13.doc



Exordium

- A couple of years ago a fellow BCM missionary changed, noticeably, he had a new direction, a new focus, a new zeal – He had fallen in love.
- That is the best way of describing what happens when the Lord comes to a person - there is a new person, a new enthusiasm, a new heart full of love. I have a new motivation, a new passion, Joy comes.

How different that is to how things were before. x2.

- You have heard me mention the young man, who to the exasperation of his mother, rarely combed his hair, was always carelessly dressed and generally sloppy in his manner. The mother in her desperation could effect no change for the better. One day she saw a sudden and great change take place: Once disheveled he now became meticulous, shiny shoes, washed and tidy hair, clean shirts, no creases, a bounce in his step, punctual, enthusiastic, focused and why? yes a woman, he’s in love

So are the traits of godliness. We see this in Simeon. Today meet Simeon, which is very fitting as we approach Christmas. This Simeon is distinct from the other Simeons or Simons, he is found only here in this passage.

There is a fair bit to go on as we learn about him. v 25 introduces us to him. v25 **Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon.**

He is called Simeon. Sometimes we don’t know a man or woman’s name and that tells us they represent every man or woman. There is nothing wasted in Scripture, every word is important. Don’t skip words, mull over it.

He is called Simeon, we first meet a Simeon in Genesis as a son of Leah.

The race is on as to who can have the most children and win Jacobs favour.

Leah cries out to the Lord and her second son arrives; she names him ‘Simeon’ which as your footnote says means “the one who hears” Ge 29:33

However, Simeon is not in the Lord’s favour for he shows himself to be violent and cruel, so much so that the royal line bypasses him. To limit his violence the tribe of Simeon is engulfed within the southern tribe of Judah.

However, this Simeon today is described as **righteous and devout**. x2

- ✚ That is he is righteous, and lives righteously in his life - and devout towards God, - righteous before man and devout before God.

The days in which he lived were dark days, violence, trickery, oppression, idolatry – Many had turned away, there had been no new word from God for 400 years, only silence – a general abandoning of Godliness pervaded.

Yet in the midst of this darkness there are stars shining, and in fact they are even brighter for the darkness, there is Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, there's Mary and Joseph and here we read of Simeon and in the next paragraph Anna who lived at the temple.

We know nothing of Simeon's life, like Melchizedek, what jumps out in this short passage is his godliness – He is a bright star shining in the darkness.

Stars as you know are suns and super bright when close up, but even from a distance, through the channels of distance and time, Simeon shines brightly. There have been others who have stood out, such as Ruth living in the dark days of the Judges & Daniel living in the epicentre of ungodliness; Babylon. What about you? Do you stand out as different? Are you a bright light of Godliness shining in the darkness all around? Jesus's people are to be light, the light of Jesus who is the light, living within and shining out of me. That's what makes someone different to those around, nothing else, not education, not good upbringing, but Jesus. How different are you to those living around?

✚ **Without Christ this world has no light**

- Thomas Manton said: "When the sun is gone all the candles in the world cannot make it day." Vain would be the attempt, though we should kindle a mountain of wax. We could say LEDs.

The Holy Spirit

Simeon had that light, He is different, and how is Simeon different? Because he has the Holy Spirit in Him x2. The title this morning is "Simeon - the spirit filled man" I'm going beyond the great Baptist tradition of having three points, there are four, and big words too, although they do rhyme to help you memorise: The Holy Spirit brings: Renovation, Revelation, Motivation and Proclamation x2

The Holy Spirit produces – Renovation x2

V25 **the Holy Spirit was upon him.** We see the Holy Spirit mentioned twice more in the next two sentences 26 **It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit** 27 **Moved by the Spirit..**

The Spirit in him - changed him, it did not replace him - but became the indwelling governing force that changed him! Made him a new man.

✚ **The Spirit is the enabler – no-one can be holy without the Holy Spirit.**

The only way you and I can please God the father is to live like his Son. But without the HS, the Spirit of Christ, I will never be, can never be, like Christ Do not delude yourself, no-one, unless he has the Spirit, can live a godly life **"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."** 1Co 2:14

Don't think that because you don't do certain things – or that you do certain things that you are living in the way of Jesus. **NO. the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.** Ro 8:7

Naturally no-one loves God, - how can you love someone you don't know!

It is impossible for a sinful man or women to know the Holy God unless there is one who can remove my sin and make me righteous in his sight – Christ can. He did all that was necessary 2000 years ago. Living in full obedience to God the Father and then laying down that life in my place – in fact giving it up as the offering – the perfect offering I can never bring. It was a finished work. - Now it is brought to me by Christ's Spirit.

He unites me with Jesus so what Jesus has achieve and who is - is now mine. All 'in' Jesus have been "lifted up with Christ"

It is the Spirit who takes the work of Christ on the cross and applies it to me.

- and I am renewed - without this I am still dead in my sins. Ezekiel 36 says **"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.** 25-26

Now I can put away my sins, those ungodly desires; and as Paul says: **put on the new self, created to be like God - in true righteousness and holiness.**

- We likened it to putting on new clothes - a good picture except that clothes are on the outside.

✚ **Has there been a change in you? A change inside - in your heart? - If not then you are in both a dangerous and a pitiful state.**

You may be trying to live an upright life but it will make no difference God wrath remains on you, you are "condemned already ". The Lord must do his work. You must be made anew - Born Again by Jesus.

Not sure it has happened? Did you take communion earlier – and yet can honestly say that it has yet to happen to you? Then do what Christ said: Turn to Him in repentance and you will receive the gift of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit produces – Renovation, the HS brings – Revelation x2

The Spirit of Christ brings the light of Christ to shine in our hearts. **God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.** 2Co 4:6

For Simeon – v26 **It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit**. The Spirit is the revealer of **God - and the things of God can only be revealed by God**.

One of the works of the Spirit is to bring the truth of God for **no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God** 1Co 2:11. He shines his light and illumines my dark mind. 1Co 2:10 **God has revealed it to us by his Spirit**.

Many describe finding Christ as **the lights coming on**, no-one can find God through our own searching, no it's only through God's revelation of himself to me. Then you will know God, - not know about him - but **know** Him.

The Spirit reveals Christ to me, His work is not to point to himself – no, it is to point to Jesus. He is self-effacing, he does not draw attention to himself.

■ He is the spotlight operator

He prompts me to '**look to Jesus**' x2 as Chris preached a few weeks ago.

Some today say in effect of the Spirit "*Oh dear he is the forgotten One we must make up for it*". No his purpose is to reveal Christ to me – not himself.

What of the order **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**? is he just tagged on? Mat 28:19

It is not in order of importance - but in order of general agency: first God Almighty in the OT – then the Son born of a woman and his finished work making way for the Spirit - now we are, as is said, in the age of the Spirit.

Jesus said: **the Spirit of truth will testify about me. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.** Joh 16:14

He goes on: **All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.** Joh 16:15

So we don't pray to the Spirit, there is no example of that in the Bible.

Only two maybe three examples of praying to Jesus, we pray as Hebrews says '**in the Spirit**' (Eph 6:18) **through the son - to the Father**. (Heb 13:15)

The Holy Spirit produces - Motivation

27 **Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. - Moved by the Spirit**
As Paul said "**And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.** Ac 20:22

The Spirit is our mobiliser, he moves me to act **Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert**, 4:1

Jesus the ultimate spirit filled man – is Jesus missionary to the human race.

The first missionaries were sent out by the Holy Spirit at Antioch Acts 13:2 **While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, See the importance of being together – God is at work when we are together before Him. "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."**

■ Missionary sending meetings – who will go?

Who will the Lord send out from KNBC? Who will go? Doesn't the HS desire it? Hasn't Christ commanded it? Didn't the father send his son into the world to be a light to the gentiles that's everyone!

"As the father has sent me" Jesus said **"I am sending you"** John 20:21

✚ Reach, Build, Send – We as a church should be actively reaching, building, sending

Simeon is motivated - 27 **Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts.** Just then it seems Mary and Joseph walk in **When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,** 28 **Simeon took him in his arms**

The Spirit always brings me to Jesus – So here in front of a nervous mum Simeon takes Jesus in his arms – or is it Jesus the Son of God holding Simeon!

The Holy Spirit brings me to Jesus - that I can then leave filled with Jesus, filled with Jesus words,

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

Simon knew that a place in Heaven had been prepared for him

Now I can depart in peace - peace with God now means an assurance of going to Heaven later.

Simeon, Godly Simeon filled with Jesus says: **For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**"

The opening words in the Latin Vulgate, give us its name the "*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine*" ("Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord"). Like Mary's song the Magnificat and Zechariah's song it, does, though brief, abound in OT allusions. For example, "**Because my eyes have seen thy salvation**" alludes to Isaiah 52:10. Listen to the prayers of a godly man or woman and they will be full of Scripture – Bringing God's word back to him. This is true worship.

Lastly the Holy Spirit produces – Proclamation x2

✚ Will you come to Jesus to be full - so you can go full to others.

- Like the bread van that leaves the depot empty on his rounds has nothing to help or feed anyone.

To be filled with the Lord, means being filled with gratitude our hearts – which overflow - so as the psalmist says **I will lift up the cup of salvation x2**

How different from the first Simeon who was violent, there is no more an expression of the carnal man than violence.

✚ Simeon here is a spiritual man. A spirit filled man, a man full of the HS

33 The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." Lu 2:33-35

The Holy Spirit gives Simeon the prophetic voice, He knows what will now happen. With Christ's coming into this world the great sifting of souls will now come. His presence will cause some to fall and some to rise, some to rise and some to fall – in fact many

✚ He saw and he spoke. Se we see by faith and therefore speak

✚ Don't bottle it up – for God tells us to pour it out

- I am sure astronauts returning from the moon have many requests for speaking engagements. Why? They are in a unique position, they have authority they have been there and seen – now they can tell.

If the Spirit has opened your eyes to the Glory of God – Then I can - and I must - speak. Those who have seen must now proclaim. No-one else can.

Here in compressed form is a glimpse of Godliness. Simeon was made different by the Spirit of Christ working in him. He was changed and stirred.

Oh that we would be Godly people, those that shun the world with all its attractions and be like Simeon who was faithful through all those dark silent years **waiting for the consolation of Israel** > OT language to wait for the Lord

✚ To wait on the Lord - is to wait for the Lord.

As Peter says in that passage we read: One day soon the earth will all be destroyed and all that is seen, everything, yes everything will pass away.

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. 2Pe 3:11-12

As you wait for, long for, strive for, Christ's return. His return will be speeded by our work of bringing the gospel to the nations – and when that happens - when we speak – then the end will come.

In this great task he uses Godly men and women. And it all starts with responding to that calling. Christ calling you out and giving you His Holy Spirit to make you fit for purpose.

Godliness is made possible by God's Spirit who brings: *Renovation, Revelation, Motivation and Proclamation x2*

Will you be like Simeon, guided and lead by the Spirit to long for Jesus? To know him and dwell with him to be: Wanting, Watching, and Waiting?

Are you available to His leading? Will you be available to serve, so much of the Lord's work is hindered because of lack of people who when you ask to put their hand to the plough are just not available, too busy, too many other things going on.

Simeon was focused on the Lord, and him alone. That is how Simeon chose to live his life - or more importantly who was going to run Simon's life

- Matthew Henry said:- It is the character of the redeemed of the Lord, that they follow the Lamb wheresoever he goes, with an implicit faith and obedience. As the eyes of a servant are to the hand of his master, and the eyes of a maiden to the hand of her mistress, so must our eyes wait on the Lord, to what he appoints us, to take what he allots us

So may you and I now today live by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit, that his fruit will grow and mature in your life. END