

Have You Met The Saviour?

Sermon January 10, 2021

Golden Verse: *“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.”* Luke 2:30-31

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 & Luke 2:22-35

There is a story about an old man who lived in Jerusalem at the time of the birth of Lord Jesus. He was deeply committed to the Lord, a God-fearing man, who was looking forward to the appearance of the Messiah. He spent a lot of time in church and prayed a lot. He was one of the few persons, for whom the Bible notes in particular, that he was filled with God's Holy Spirit.

From this story, I will highlight five important things.

1. First, we read that: *“It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ”*. (Luke 22:26) Simeon was a simple, ordinary man just like we are. Simeon was in such an amazing, close relationship with God that he received a revelation from the Holy Spirit. God promised him that he would not die until he will see the promised and long-awaited Messiah.

The Bible says that God often wants to tell us important truths about Himself and about His secrets but, because we are not well connected to Him, we do not understand what God is saying and for this we can miss many opportunities to see God, to experience our God, or we miss God’s revelations about our present and future. If we are not in a constant active connection with our Heavenly Father, we step by step lose our spiritual hearing ability, our receivers. We will be disconnected from the Holy Spirit, and this is why we often do not understand God’s personal messages to us. In fact, the Apostle Paul says that God always wants to share with us important thoughts; but if we are distanced from God, we

cannot hear His voice and don't understand Him clearly. Often, God's revelations and His messages looks foolish to some people. However, when a person receives the Holy Spirit, from that moment on, that person becomes open to God's thoughts, and resonates with what God is saying. If we are close enough to our Lord, we are able to understand His messages.

In 1 Corinthians 2:10-15, we read: *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.*

I can remember from my own experiences, and from many I have heard, that if someone connects with Jesus Christ and receives God's Holy Spirit at the very same time, the Bible comes to life; the plain letters, words and sentences will be alive and the living God will talk through those personally, and the person will understand them as God's message. This is not fiction but a reality. Those people who have received the Holy Spirit understand a lot more from a service and from the sermon.

2. Secondly, we read that *“Simeon, directed by the Spirit, came into the temple courts, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, Simeon took him in his arms and blessed God.”*

(Luke 2:27-28) Those, who received the Holy Spirit, will do things that they would never do otherwise. The Bible says that, if we are in a living connection with our Heavenly Father, we are led step by step by the Holy Spirit.

Simeon did not go to church by habit, but guided by the Spirit. He felt an inner urge not to stay home, but to go directly to the Church. He felt an urge empowered by the Holy Spirit to come to the church at a certain time, and he could not and did not want to resist following this urge. The Almighty God invited him there when Joseph and Mary arrived to present the baby Jesus to God Almighty. When Simeon saw this couple and the Child in their arms, the Holy Spirit assured him that this baby was the Messiah. Therefore, it was a surprising event.

It's not hard to imagine the story. Simeon goes up the temple's stairs and sees a modest, poor young couple with a baby on their arms. Suddenly in front of them, an old man appears. He asked the parents if he might hold the baby, as he started to prophecy about the baby Messiah. Then, he continued the prophecies, telling stories about Jesus' future. I am sure Simeon was loud enough so others could hear him.

3. We heard that when he took the baby Jesus in his arms; he said: my eyes have seen your salvation. Simeon was holding an infant on his shaky arms. He had waited a long time for the Messiah's appearance. According to Jewish believers, the Messiah would be a strong man who would help his people and fight with enemies. Simeon was holding a baby in his arms but he still said: Lord, Your promise was fulfilled; here is my salvation. Here is the promised Messiah in this small baby.

How did Simeon know this and how did he have the courage to proclaim that? The Holy Spirit said this to him. Because Simeon was blessed by the Holy Spirit, he was able to recognize in baby Jesus the Messiah, the teacher of Nazareth, the only

begotten Son of God. The Holy Spirit always leads us to Jesus and helps us to see him.

Many times I have seen that people who have only basic knowledge about God, can only talk about the creator and guardian God, but they do not know the Saviour. When they receive the Holy Spirit, they recognize who Jesus is, why He is the Christ, what it means that He is the only begotten Son of God, and they recognize Jesus as their own personal Saviour. Is it very interesting, that even later, so many people did not recognize in Jesus the Saviour even though they had heard and had seen plenty of wonders? In the infant, the old Simeon was able to see the Lord of the universe, the Saviour of the nations. Can you see in Jesus YOUR Saviour, who came into this world, as an incarnated God, to reconnect you with your Creator, and to take you into His glory after this life?

4. When Simeon took Jesus in his arms, he glorified God. The Holy Spirit always makes the believer glorify God. Most people do not understand why we have to worship God. What's the point? Who benefits from the fact that we glorify God? The glorification of God is unknown to this world. This world does not glorify the Creator. This world often denies the existence of God. Some would say that they do not deny, do not blaspheme God, but they don't deal with Him, which means they ignore God. They live as if God does not exist. Even if we do not understand God, we have to believe that God is good, God is love, God knows what you are doing and you can count on Him completely.

5. Finally, we read that Simeon knew he had to pass this information on to others. We read that Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, *“Listen carefully: This child is destined to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be rejected. Indeed, as a result of him the thoughts of many*

hearts will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul as well!” Luke 2:34-25

I can picture Joseph turning to Simeon saying: What are you talking about old man? Maybe Simeon was surprised by what he said, too. How can Christ's mission be summarized so well in a few sentences? Simeon told them in a sentence what Jesus, as the Messiah, will do for us and what people will do with him and to him. Simeon had more things to say. His aged eyes saw far into the future. He knew that Mary's joy was greater than anyone else's joy. But her *sorrow* would also be greater than anyone else's sorrow. She would suffer intense pain, as if someone had run a sword through her. Simeon was counseling Mary, preparing her for her future.

Simeon received the revelation that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. God gave these words in his heart to tell others, to share what he knows about Jesus. Do you want to be a Simon, who opens his heart for Jesus? Do you want to be a prophet, who sees in Jesus the saviour? Don't you want to be a chosen person to share with others what you already know about Jesus? Please let Jesus live in you and share your happiness with others. Bring light, life and love into their hearts so they should rejoice with you. Amen.