



December 1-2, 2020

Series: The Wait

Message: The Wait: Simeon (Luke 2:25-38)

Teacher: Brianne Farrell

The Main Thing: *Eagerly awaiting the Messiah and His Salvation for all people.*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Icebreaker: What are some of your favorite holiday traditions?

What struggles do you face because of your age?

Do you ever feel like God can't use you because of your age?

What is the hardest thing you ever had to wait for?

Have you ever waited patiently for God to fulfill a promise to you?

What promise was it and how did He answer you?

What blessings are you waiting for from God right now?

What do we learn from Simeon about praise and thanksgiving?

How is Anna an example of how we should live our lives as Christians?

(Always worshipping, lived a disciplined life, offered Thanksgiving)

What restoration are you waiting for right now?

(Examples; Family, friendship . . .)

What does wanting to be with God look like to you?

How can the story of Simeon and Anna change us?

Scriptures Referenced: Luke 2:25-38;

Bible Background Notes:

Simeon was a common name at the time, and not much was known about him. There is no evidence that he was old, a priest, or an important citizen.

25-26 He was a well-behaved man who was careful about his religious duties.

The “consolation of Israel” is another way to say the coming of the Messiah. The coming was thought to be preceded by a time of great suffering, from which the Messiah would bring comfort. The faithful looked for a deliverer to solve their problems.

The Holy Spirit is here continually with Simeon, which was unique in that the Spirit was usually said to “come upon” someone only on special occasions. The Spirit was often associated with prophecy. See also Psalm 91:16.

27-28 The Spirit brought Simeon to the Temple at the same time as Joseph and Mary to fulfill the promise to him. The custom of the law means offering five shekels on behalf of the firstborn son. Simeon offered up a prayer of thanksgiving to God, similar to those in Genesis 46:30 and Isaiah 42:6;49:6.

29-32 This section is a song. Simeon’s *now* is important; he is ready to die peacefully *now* that he’s seen God’s salvation, the baby through whom it would come. The freedom is similar to that of a slave. Salvation would be for all nations. He links “glory” with Israel, in connection with God’s manifestations of Himself to His people. Israel will see glory in the fullest through the Son of God.

33-35 Salvation will be purchased at a heavy cost. He says that people must lose all pride in their own spiritual achievement. Those who reject him will fall, and those who accept him will rise/enter into Salvation. His words may allude to Isaiah 8:14-15, the stumbling stone and the anticipated resurrection. Being a sign means Jesus will point to the action of God. The sword that will pierce Mary’s soul is the death of Jesus. We can’t ultimately be neutral towards Jesus and His suffering. A mother’s grief over Jesus’ pain showed his great suffering.

36-38 Many religious people failed to accept Jesus, but Anna (meaning “Grace”) faithfully observed her religion and offered her thanksgiving as a prophetess (a rare title). She was continually at worship and lived a disciplined life. She thanked God for sending His Messiah and the deliverance He brought.

Sources: The IVP Bible Background Commentary NT; Luke: The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Leon Morris)