

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Real Life Stories of God Sightings Series

Lesson 32

Lesson Title: Simeon Holds the Savior

Take Home Point: God gives us eyes of faith so we can see Jesus.

Warm-Up:

You've heard the phrase "seeing is believing?" In the movie "The Santa Clause," the main character unwittingly takes on the role of Santa Claus and is carried to the North Pole by reindeer pulling a sleigh. He sees many things that he had heard about as a child, but is unconvinced that they are real. In a conversation with an elf, he says, "I see it, but I don't believe it." The elf replies with a smile, "That's the trouble with grownups. Seeing isn't believing. Believing is seeing." I doubt the screen writer was trying to communicate spiritual truth, but he did. Read Hebrews 11:1 for confirmation of spiritual vision.

Read: Luke 2:25-35

Observation (What happened?):

What had the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon regarding the timing of his death?

Who was included in Simeon's praise while he held Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What in Simeon's praise might have caused Joseph and Mary to be amazed, even after the visitations they received from angels telling them about Jesus?

How do you think Joseph and Mary felt about the words Simeon spoke directly to them?

Insight:

For most of us, reading that Simeon was moved by the Spirit to go to the temple that particular day means he received some sort of special message, maybe a voice that said, "Go to the temple!" It may well have been that way. But perhaps it was not so clear cut. Perhaps he simply had this feeling in his heart that day that he was to go to the temple, out of his regular routine. We tend to forget the people of the Bible were ordinary people like you and me, and that God guided them much as he guides us today. In retrospect it was no doubt easy for Simeon to perceive God's direction, so what he told Luke to record was that "the Spirit moved me." Yet that moving may have been no more or less than what happens to us when we are in tune with God – a "feeling" or "indication" or "urging" in our heart to do something, go somewhere, or speak to someone. Afterwards, we can see how God moved us to respond to his prompting. By those experiences we learn and grow to be even more in tune and responsive as God leads us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one time in the past year you can look back and see God at work. How are you different today because of it?

What do you most look forward to in your future? How does it relate to God's plan for you?

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