

## The Question of Expectation

*What if all we were expecting for Christmas was God?*

### The Great Expectation of Simeon LUKE 2:25-32

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

### The Keys to Simeon's Expectations

1. Simeon focused on pleasing God in all things (vs. 25)  
**righteous:** equitable, fair and right  
**devout:** serious about his relationship with God
2. Simeon discovered that waiting time is never wasting time in God's plan (vs. 25b)
3. He was living off of a promise that only God could keep (vs. 26)
4. He was looking for the Messiah in unexpected places (vs. 27)
5. Simeon found salvation in the revelation of Jesus Messiah (vss. 28-32)
6. Simeon blessed those who needed a blessing (vs. 34a)

*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." – Luke 2:34-35*

7. Simeon was not afraid to speak the whole truth (vss. 34-35)

## My Christmas Questions

1. Am I focused on pleasing God in all things?
2. Have I discovered that waiting time is never wasting time?
3. Am I living off the promises that only God can keep?
4. Do I look for Jesus in unexpected places?
5. Have I found salvation in Jesus Messiah?
6. Have I blessed someone who needs a blessing?
7. Am I able to tell the complete truth about Jesus?

### Next Steps:

Play an active role in your Christmas expectations by choosing to focus on God and God alone. Come and join us for our Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> as we gather to focus on Jesus.

### Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) How do you do normally respond when you are asked to wait?
  - a. No problem – I just roll with it
  - b. OK; it depends on why I am being asked to wait
  - c. It bugs me
  - d. I lose it!
  - e. Other
- 2) Do you agree with the statement, “Waiting time is never wasting time in God’s plan?” What has God taught you from waiting?
- 3) Where have you seen Jesus this Christmas season?
- 4) Have you given a blessing from God to another person this year? Have you received a blessing through another person? How has either or both changed your heart?
- 5) Do you have any great expectations of God this year? Share one or more with the group.
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?