

Jesus: God's Salvation Has Come. Luke 2:22–38

Main Truth: *Jesus Christ is God's salvation before whom every heart must respond.*

Opening Question: When you hear the word salvation, what immediately comes to mind?

As you study this passage, pay attention to how Luke moves salvation from merely being something God does to something revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

HEAD — UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Jesus Arrives According to God's Word — vv. 22–25a

Read Luke 2:22–25a.

Observe

What references to God's Law or God's Word do you notice?

Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to Jerusalem?

What offering did they bring?

What does Luke tell us Simeon was doing?

Learn

Luke places Jesus squarely within God's covenant revelation.

Mary's purification reflects Leviticus 12, while the presentation of the firstborn reaches back to Exodus 13.

The two birds also tell us something about Jesus' family. Leviticus made provision for families who could not afford the normal lamb offering.

This creates one of the beautiful ironies of the passage: They cannot afford to bring a lamb while carrying in their arms the Lamb God has provided.

Nothing about Jesus' arrival is disconnected from what God had previously spoken. God's Word had been preparing His people for this moment.

Greek Insight — προσδέχομαι — *prosdechomai* (pros-DEK-oh-my)
“waiting” — v. 25

The word communicates more than passively waiting for time to pass. It carries the idea of expectant waiting, anticipation, and readiness to welcome what is coming.

Simeon ordered his expectations around God's promises.

Discuss

1. What is the difference between merely knowing God's Word and ordering your life beneath God's Word?
 2. Why could Simeon continue waiting even when Israel's circumstances looked discouraging?
 3. How should God's promises shape a Christian's expectations today?
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2. Jesus Is Revealed by God's Spirit — vv. 25b–32

Read Luke 2:25b–32.

Observe

How many references to the Holy Spirit appear in vv. 25–27?

What had the Spirit revealed to Simeon?

Who directed Simeon into the temple?

What does Simeon call Jesus in vv. 30–32?

Learn

Luke deliberately emphasizes the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit was upon Simeon.
- Something had been revealed by the Holy Spirit.
- Simeon came in the Spirit into the temple.

Notice the convergence: The Law directs Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem.
The Spirit directs Simeon to Jesus.

God's written revelation and God's Spirit are not competing voices. They converge upon Christ.

That gives Christians an important principle for discernment. The Holy Spirit will never lead us away from the Jesus Christ God has revealed in Scripture.

Greek Insight — **Χριστός** — *Christos* (kris-TOSS)
"Christ" — v. 26

The word means Anointed One and corresponds to the Hebrew idea of Messiah.

Simeon wasn't merely waiting to see an extraordinary child. He had been promised that he would see the Lord's Messiah.

Greek Insight — **δεσπότης** — *despotēs* (des-POH-tace)
"Lord" — v. 29

This word emphasizes Master or Sovereign Lord. Simeon sees himself as God's servant and God as his Master.

Notice why Simeon can now rest: "According to your word."

God promised it. God accomplished it. Therefore, Simeon can rest.

Greek Insight — **σωτήριον** — *sōtērion* (so-TAY-ree-on)
"salvation" — v. 30

Simeon's declaration is remarkable: "My eyes have seen your salvation." He is looking at Jesus.

Luke connects God's saving work directly with the person of Jesus Christ.

Discuss

1. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between God's Word and God's Spirit?
2. How can Scripture help us evaluate claims that something is "from the Holy Spirit"?
3. Why is "according to your word" so important to Simeon's peace?
4. What is significant about Simeon calling Jesus God's salvation, rather than merely saying Jesus will *bring* salvation?
5. According to vv. 31–32, who is God's salvation intended to reach?

3. Jesus Reveals the Human Heart — vv. 33–35

Read Luke 2:33–35.

Observe

How do Mary and Joseph respond to Simeon's words? What three things does Simeon say will happen because of Jesus? What will ultimately be revealed?

Learn

The tone changes dramatically. Jesus will be responsible for the fall and rising of many. He will be opposed. And through people's responses to Him, the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. Jesus does not enter the world merely to be admired.

He demands a response.

Throughout Luke's Gospel, people will encounter the same Jesus and respond very differently. Some believe. Some worship. Some repent. Others resist, oppose, and ultimately crucify Him.

The difference isn't Jesus.

Jesus reveals what is already happening within the human heart.

Discuss

1. Why can't someone remain permanently neutral toward Jesus?
2. How can encountering Jesus, expose pride or self-righteousness?
3. Why might someone know a great deal *about* Jesus and still resist Him?

HEART — LETTING THE WORD EXAMINE US

Now move from "What does this passage mean?" to "What is Christ revealing in me?"

Discuss honestly: Where does God's Word currently have the right to overrule you?

Consider your:

- attitude
- marriage
- money
- sexuality
- anger
- politics
- priorities
- unforgiveness
- plans

What are you currently asking Jesus to give you that you may need to be finding in Jesus Himself?

Are you primarily seeking Jesus—or something you hope Jesus will give you?

When God's Word exposes something uncomfortable in you, what is your normal reaction?

Do you confess it? Defend it? Explain it? Compare yourself to someone else? Ignore it?

HANDS — RESPONDING WITH OBEDIENCE

Biblical truth is meant to move from understanding → conviction → obedience.

Jesus revealed the thoughts of people's hearts. Therefore, don't merely identify what Christ is exposing.

Respond to Him.

Choose one area where God's Word is confronting you this week.

Write it down: Jesus is calling me to surrender: _____

Now make your response specific: Because of what God's Word has shown me, before this week is over I will:

For example, if Christ exposes unforgiveness, don't simply say, "I should forgive."

Name the person. Pray for them. Confess your bitterness to God. And where reconciliation is wise and possible, take a concrete step toward it.

That's what surrender looks like when it leaves the sanctuary and follows you home.

Final Reflection — Anna's Response

Read Luke 2:36–38.

What does Anna do when she recognizes Jesus?

She thanks God. She speaks about Jesus.

The passage gives us a beautiful progression: Simeon waits. Simeon sees.
Anna worships. Anna witnesses.

Final Question: If Jesus has truly become precious to you, where should that become visible in your life this week?

Closing Prayer

Ask God to help your group: Know Jesus more clearly through His Word.
Treasure Jesus more deeply in your hearts. Follow Jesus more faithfully with your lives.

God's salvation has come. His name is Jesus.