

Reflection Questions: Luke 2:21-38

For the message, "My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 6, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read Luke 2:21-38:

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

A summary of the message:

Jesus was a "lightning rod" then as he is now. And the scandal of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that in it God has made the only way of salvation possible: a salvation through the life, death, & resurrection of Jesus. And each and every one of us is called to respond in believing allegiance to Jesus.

So the question Luke wants us to wrestle with is this: Since Jesus is God's gift of salvation, will Jesus become our salvation? Will the bold declaration that our salvation must come at the hands of a dying and rising Savior be a cause for us to stumble and fall, or a cause for us to rise to life eternal?

Bottom Line:

Luke wants us to see with Simeon that Jesus is salvation, to feel with Mary a piercing of the heart over what Jesus would go through, and to thank God with Anna that Jesus is our redemption.

When you think of the word, “salvation,” what comes to your mind?

QUESTIONS

1. Let’s think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- When Mary and Joseph go to the temple and suddenly a man named Simeon takes up Jesus in his arms, blesses God and says, “My eyes have seen your salvation,” what does Luke want us to understand and believe about this newborn child?
 - After thinking about this for a moment, look up Luke 19:10. How would you describe what it means for Jesus to be our salvation?
- When I forget this, or don’t believe Jesus is salvation, what lies fill that vacuum?
- Simeon tells Mary that a “sword will pierce your own soul also.” We know this prediction came true at the crucifixion of Jesus. In what sense might that same sword pierce the soul of a follow of Jesus?

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- Simeon believed Jesus was the salvation of God. Anna saw Jesus at the Temple and worshiped God and told everyone about how Jesus is their hope of redemption. How does the response of Simeon and Anna help us understand the kind of community of faith is this text calling us to become? What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world?
- How does this text clarify the kind of lifestyle we are called to live in this world, both in terms of intentionality and motive?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____