

The Gospel According to Luke

LUKE 2:22-40

PART 3

The Child who is destined...

READ LUKE 2:34-35

INTRODUCTION

These short two verses where Simeon is blessing Jesus and speaking to Mary of His purpose are very interesting. When we study Scripture it is so important to remember that words matter. The language that Simeon was using was “big-boy” language. He wasn’t just saying that Jesus was going to be a great man or that He was going to affect people in a positive way. He was saying that Jesus was going to rock Israel to its core. Jesus wasn’t on earth to make people happy and live a moral life. He had come to speak against the people who had hardened their hearts towards God and to comfort those who were in need of a Savior. (Luke 5:31)

When we continue with Simeon’s words, we see that Jesus was the embodiment of the Word of God. (John 1:1) He was and is God’s mouthpiece and we know that God’s Word pierces through flesh and bone, even to the marrow. (Hebrews 4:12-13) Jesus had come to pierce people’s hearts with the Word of God and to shine a light on the sinfulness of our hearts. We are quick to forget that He came to save the world from sin and not just to make us feel better about our current situations. Jesus is more than a man with good morals. He came to reveal the heart of man in a way that demands our humility at the foot of the cross.

If we claim to be Christian, then there are some requirements of serving Christ. There is a necessity to follow Him. We follow Him by obeying His commands. We follow Him through confession of sin and repentance of that sin. (1 John 1:9) He had His marching orders from the Father and came to earth to fulfil God’s commands. He is our example on how to live a life that is offered up in humility and sacrifice. He is the example of how we are to shed light on the sin of our hearts and not hide it away to rot our very core. Simeon’s words came out almost as a warning to people who would treat Jesus as exclusively a “good teacher” or a “moral man”. Jesus is God and He came to reveal our hearts.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you find that, reading through passages, it can be easy to overlook some very important words? Why? What can we do to treat every word of Scripture with expectation of our hearts being changed and our lives being affected?
2. Why do you think Jesus wanted people to know that the sick needed a healer? What encouragement can we take from Luke 5:31? How should we respond to Christ knowing that we are sick?
3. Read John 1:1. Why do you think that it is important to know that Jesus was the “Logos” (Word) of God? What does it imply about Him? Do you think that it is important to memorize Scripture? Why or why not?
4. Why is it important for the Word of God to be able to pierce through to our very core? Have you let the Word pierce through to your heart? How can you better live a life of obeying Christ’s commands? Do you even want to?
5. What are the dangers of treating Jesus only as a “good man” or a “teacher of good morals”? Why do we have a tendency as humans to desire a God to be morally good but not ultimately God over us? Do you treat God like He is God? Or, do you treat Him like He is an add-on to an already busy life?

WRAP UP

Jesus is God. Jesus is the Word of God. We know these things from Scripture. We also see in these two verses that God’s Word was not sent to just treat people good and follow the “Golden Rule” but to pierce through hearts and shed light on the depravity of man. He demands a response and that response must be to obey His commands or else we are in trouble of treating the very Words of God as something that we could live without. We must remember that it is not Jesus plus...it is Christ and Christ alone. We serve Him.