



Simeon's Song

Promise of Hope | 12.24.25

Libin Abraham

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Libin Abraham 0:00

How many kiddos do we have in the service? Make some noise? Kids, oh, okay, okay, there you go. All right. Kids, I've got a few questions for you. How many of you are super excited about getting some presents tomorrow? Are you excited? A few of you, okay, okay, older kids here. Okay. Here's the question, how many of you have already opened your Christmas present by show of hands. Anyone already opened your showcat Now we know who's confessing their sins and who to pray for. More patience for 2026 Okay, more seriously, kids still to the kids, would you be okay for those who haven't already opened their gifts? Would you be okay if your parents said to you tomorrow, hey, instead of getting you a gift, we actually just want to describe to you the gift, would that be okay for y'all? No, no, I don't think so either. Yeah. What if they said, you know, we didn't end up getting you a gift, but we've got this really cool picture of the gift we would have gotten you. Would that be okay? No, I didn't think so either. Okay. Last one, what if, in the days of AI. They created the coolest, the most epic, AI video of all that your gift could do, and they gave you the video. Would that be? Okay? No, I didn't think any of those would work. I tried that with my kids, and none of them would agree to that either. I'm imagining parents. Here's what's gonna happen tomorrow morning at your house. Okay, tomorrow morning, early in the morning, your kids are going to knock on your door. They're waking up earlier than they did the entire school semester. Okay, when you needed a new acre, but now they're up early, 536 o'clock, and it's not because they're super excited about the incarnation of the Son of God, but they want to go and get their gift. They'll run downstairs. They'll run under the tree, they'll grab that gift, they'll shake it a few times to try and guess what is inside of it. And then you know what happens. They rip open that wrapping paper that, if you're like me, you spend like, 30 minutes trying to wrap a box, and in 20 seconds, they've turned it into shreds. And they break open that box to a point where you can't even return it now, if you wanted to. And then they physically with their own hands. They grab a hold of the gift. They feel the weight of it. They touch it. They see it. They're holding it. They're grasping it as if their life depended on it. A description wasn't going to do a picture wasn't going to suffice. A video would not be enough. They wanted the real, actual physical gift, didn't they? Oh yeah, they did. At first Christmas, at the very first Christmas, God gave us a gift. It was the best gift he could give to us, and it was our most needed gift from him. It was the gift of His Son, Jesus, Christ, Immanuel. God is now with us. The one who dwells in unapproachable light has clothed himself with humanity, and he has come to be with us. This is the greatest gift. This gift saves this gift forgives, this gift restores and makes all things new. Can I get an amen? Yeah. But yet, even at Christmas, so many people are okay hearing a description of the gift, never receiving the gift. So many are good with singing songs about the gift and even seeing images of what the gift would be like. And I just want to invite you tonight that Jesus is not something or someone to admire from of distance. He is the gift to receive. He is the gift to hold with your heart, with your mind, with your whole being. So my prayer for every single one of us in this room today is that we would be just as zealous and excited as our kids are about grabbing a hold of their Christmas gift, that we would settle for nothing less than to feel the entire weight and wonder of who Jesus is, that with our whole being, we would settle for nothing less than receiving Him fully with all his glory and wonder. Amen, that is the invitation of Christmas, and this is precisely what an elderly priest named Simeon does in Luke chapter two, Simeon sees Jesus when he's just eight days old, and when he sees Jesus, he doesn't admire him from a distance. He doesn't appreciate him from afar. No, no. He reaches out his hand, and the text says he received Jesus. He lifted Jesus into his arms. And what Simeon did physically is what we are meant to do spiritually, receive Him with our whole being. The context of this text is that it's the. Day of Jesus' earthly life, and sometimes we kind of forget this part. But right after Mary delivered Jesus, within a week, she's got to travel from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. It's a five to six mile walk. So Mary and Joseph, just after delivering Jesus, they carry Infant Jesus to Jerusalem. They get to the temple, because on the eighth day, Jesus is supposed to be circumcised, and on that day of his circumcision, that's actually when a child would receive their official name. So this will be

the first day where he's actually referred to as Jesus, the name that the angels had given in the Jewish mind. The eighth day represents new creation. New Creation because a week has seven days. So the eighth day would speak of something beyond the normal cycle of life, something out of the normal pattern. The Eighth Day resembled God breaking through existing systems and patterns, and God doing something new and fresh to move history forward. That's where we are on the eighth day of Jesus' life. On this eighth day, as Mary and Joseph come to the temple with Jesus, they also come carrying sacrifices. They couldn't afford the top tier sacrifices. They were too poor, so they took advantage of the exemption given for those who were poor. They could bring doves instead of other sacrifices. This is all they could afford. So they bring, or birds, two birds to offer for their atonement and purification. So in the midst of bloodshed, sacrifice, our Lord is given the name. Say it with me, Jesus, in the midst of all of that, and the name Jesus means the LORD Saves. The Lord saves the day of his naming is actually a foreshadow of how Jesus would save, that it would be through his blood shed for us. It would be through his perfect obedience and faithfulness to God's covenant that he would save those who could not afford the sacrifice that God required, that his life would be their salvation, for those who could not earn their way to God or bring a sacrifice that was worthy, Jesus saves. Oh, hence, the new creation is now underway, and on this day, we meet a priest named Simeon. The text reads, in verse, 25 there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that He would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. So we read that Simeon is a righteous and devout man. At the same time, Simeon has been waiting his whole life. He is filled with longing for Israel's consolation, which means that he has been longing for his whole life, for his people to be comforted, for his nation to be rescued and restored, for his people to experience relief. Today, if you've walked into this room carrying grief that has endured a long time. You can identify Simeon today. If you have unmet desires, unfulfilled longings and even unanswered prayers, you're in the company of Simeon. But Simeon is a great model of faith for us, because even in his waiting, even in his unanswered prayers and longings, he remains devout to God. In fact, in the text, we find him worshiping and serving in the midst of his waiting and longing. I think there are two kinds of waiting that we could endure or go through. There's a kind of waiting where you hold your fist closed and up to God and say, God, how dare you not come through? How dare you not fulfill my longings and expectations. Or there's a kind of longing where you raise your hands with palms up, and you said, how much longer God, how long O Lord, like the psalmist would say, I trust you, I know you will come

Unknown Speaker 9:48
through. But the waiting

Libin Abraham 9:49
is hard. How long O Lord? This is the kind of waiting with expectancy, not resistance, but expectancy. See, the Simeon is modeling

Unknown Speaker 10:02
waiting for the Lord.

Libin Abraham 10:06
Maybe you're here and you're not a follower of Jesus, and you know, down in your heart, you have longings for the world to be whole. You long for true justice and righteousness in the world. You long for something transcendent. And if that's huge. I would actually invite you to consider the person and mission of Jesus, because that is exactly what Jesus came to bring Christians across the last 2000 years, we've all even to this day, we've carried this deep longing for the world to be made right as God originally designed it, a world that is good and beautiful and just. We know sin has caused havoc on the world, but true justice cannot happen without righteousness, and righteousness cannot happen without Jesus, who would make all things right, right with God, right with one another,

Unknown Speaker 10:59
and right within our own self.

Libin Abraham 11:02
So if you long for the world to be right, consider the person and mission of Jesus. Simeon was told by the Holy Spirit that He would not see death until he saw the Lord's Messiah. And so that is what he has been waiting on this whole life. And then lo and behold, it happens, Mary and Joseph come into the temple on the eighth day, carrying Jesus and Simeon spots them,

and he recognizes this is the one I have been longing for. He is the one I've been waiting for nothing external gave it away. They weren't wearing special clothes. They didn't have the wise men who would, you know, bring them in? They didn't come for a few years, by the way. No, no, they're just ordinary people. But something on the inside, there was this deep prompting from within that told Simeon he is the one. In fact, we're told what that prompting was, verse 27 guided by the Holy Spirit, guided by the Spirit. He entered the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God and said, Now Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace as you promised, for my eyes have seen your salvation. What led Simeon to Jesus was not a loud voice from the sky. It was not the sighting of an angel. What led and guided Simeon to Jesus was the Holy Spirit of God. And I love that about this text, because that's the same Holy Spirit that guides you and me to Jesus. For all of us in this room, we didn't come to Jesus because we saw an angel or heard some extraordinary sign. No, no, it was from the inside the Holy Spirit of God began to woo us, draw us, guide us to the person of Jesus. He gave us a want to to trust Jesus. We didn't have it all figured out. We didn't have all of our answers or questions answered and every i dotted and T crossed. There was this guidance from the inside that caused us to take a leap of faith and trust in Jesus, if you're in this room, or if you're online and you have been resisting that guidance, may you on this Christmas Eve, be more open to the leadership and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that leads you To the person of Jesus, because then everything changes. Everything changes here for Simeon, in verse 28 where Simeon took Jesus up in his arms. He received him, he took him up in his arms. And for me, this is what Christmas is all about, the one whom the heavens could not contain the one before whom the angels would veil their faces because they saw his majesty and glory, the one before whom the galaxies would give their worship. Yes, that one is lifted up in the fragile hands of an elderly priest, the infinite God becomes light enough to hold the God of the universe fits against the Chest of this priest. Eternity is that close within reach. This is the wonder of the incarnation that God would make himself hear me, receivable. He would make himself touchable. He would make himself within our reach so that we can actually hold. Hold eternity, we can actually hold hope, and now, because of the incarnation of God, salvation isn't just a distant promise. It is not just wishful thinking or a whispered hope. No, no. Salvation has weight. Salvation has a faith, and even on this eighth day, salvation has a name, and his name is Jesus. The beauty of the incarnation is that God chooses to be held. Simeon receives Jesus into his arms, and his response is simply, now I can die in peace. God, you can let me go. I've got everything I've needed. I am at complete rest and at peace because my eyes have seen the Lord's salvation. I have seen the Lord's salvation. You can just feel not a sigh of relief, but a sigh of salvation. He's the one. He's the one I've been waiting for. He is my salvation. He's the only way to God. He is the one I have been waiting for a lifelong of longing, awaiting finally fulfilled when he meets Jesus. But think about this moment, Simeon is totally at peace, but nothing practically about his circumstance actually changes. Like his people and the nation of Israel, they're still under the harsh and oppressive government of Rome, Simeon has to go back to his same house and come back the next day to his same job. If I was Simeon, I would have so many questions, really I've been waiting my whole life to meet a baby. How is this all going to work out? When is it going to work out? God, are you going to restore Israel mind? You? Simeon has only seen baby Jesus. He hasn't seen Jesus do a miracle. He hasn't seen Jesus heal the sick or feed the multitudes. He hasn't even heard Jesus give a great sermon, yet he hasn't been to the cross. He hasn't been to the empty tomb. He's not there at Acts two at Pentecost. He's just holding Jesus. And yet, that was enough for Simeon to be at peace. Simeon didn't have to have all the questions in his mind answered. Why? Because he is holding the answer.

Unknown Speaker 17:34

He's holding the answer.

Libin Abraham 17:37

Simeon didn't have to see all the circumstances of his life and issues of his daily resolved. All he needed hear me was to behold the face of God in the flesh. What gave him peace was to recognize that God has entered my story. He's entered our mess. He's entered our chaos, and if God has entered our story,

Unknown Speaker 18:04

that was enough for Simeon,

Libin Abraham 18:08

the truth about the first Christmas. Sam Mary still had questions. Joseph still had fears. Herod still hunted, Rome still oppressed. Nothing about this baby, born in Bethlehem mid life, everything about life just dandy and fine overnight, no no questions and turmoil still existed. But here's the hope of Christmas, Jesus brings peace not because he answers every

question. Jesus brings peace because he enters every situation. That's why we have peace, not because every single one of our questions are answered one day that will happen, but because we know he's entered our story, and he's entered every situation. The storms grow calm because Jesus walks on the water. The sick are healed because Jesus extends his hand. The dead are raised because Jesus opens his mouth. The ashamed and those filled with guilt are freed from their captivity because Jesus forgives their sin. Fear loses its voice, because Jesus has all authority. Can I get an amen? We have peace because Jesus, God and flesh is now in our story. If you were to ask Simeon, I think he would tell you this, that peace does not come because we have clarity, but rather, peace comes because we have Christ. Peace doesn't come because we have clarity. And I know I love clarity, just like you do, and some of you have walked into this room battling decades long questions, seeking, searching clarity, asking the why or the if only or the what if questions. Why did this happen to me? How could. They leave. How could they not leave? Whatever the question may be, how come this didn't happen? And I hope you get some answers, and answers may be hopeful. You may need some answers, but ultimately, it's not clarity that gives us peace. It is Christ who gives us peace. And my question to you today is, even if you didn't have clarity, would it be enough to have Christ? Would it be enough to have Christ? Because for Simeon, he didn't have clarity about a whole lot of things, but he's holding Jesus, God in the flesh, and that was enough to give him absolute peace. While holding Jesus in his arms, Simeon begins to prophesy about this Messiah, and he says in verse 31 you have prepared it, meaning God's salvation. God has prepared salvation in the presence of all peoples, not some, all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel. Remember, Simeon has been longing for Israel's consolation, but now that he has beheld the face of God in the flesh, Simeon recognizes Wow, God something way bigger in mind. He's coming for the salvation of all the people. Yes, he will be the glory to His people Israel, but at the same time, he is a light of revelation to the Gentiles. His plan to redeem and save isn't for one group of people. It's not just for the Jewish people. It is for all humanity. I want you to think for a moment about the different groups of people I'm about to read to you and ask yourself, what do they all have in common? What do they have in common? For instance, Zechariah, the priest, Mary, the young virgin, John the Baptist in the wilderness, rural people, city people, fishermen, zealots and revolutionaries, lepers, paralytics, centurions, widows, children, infants, sinners, tax collectors, a sinful woman, a rich woman, A suffering woman, Joanna, the manager of Herod's household, Legion, the demoniac Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue Samaritans and Jews, a prodigal son, a blind beggar, a poor man named Lazarus, a rich man named Zacchaeus, and then a thief on the cross. What do they all have in common? The answer is, nothing, really, except they all met Jesus, and Jesus changed their life. The only thing that every single person, by the way, all these people I just read, they're all in the Gospel of Luke. They are people Jesus encountered in His earthly ministry. There are people Jesus healed. Jesus touched. Jesus restored. Jesus blessed. Jesus saw, loved and comforted. Luke is intentionally showing us that simeon's prophecy came true. Jesus was a light for those in Israel, and Jesus was a light to the Gentiles as well. Jesus was hope for Jews Gentiles. He was life for the rich and the poor, the young and the old, men and women, free and slaves. He was equally the Savior for all humanity. That's who Jesus is, amen. I know in a service like this, maybe if you're new to church, you're thinking, man, people look kind of nice around here. They're all dressed up, but I'm gonna tell you, every person's had a messy story and a messy past. We haven't figured it all out. We're still on this journey. People have dealt with addictions and strongholds and sin marriage issues, family crisis, Regrets of the soul.

Unknown Speaker 24:07

But the reason we are here and the reason we are still standing is because we met Jesus, and Jesus saved. He rescued, he gave grace.

Libin Abraham 24:19

And the reason why I am hopeful and believe now more than ever in a highly divided world, that Jesus is the only answer for the world today. I believe with all my heart that for all the chaos in our brokenness and world, Jesus is the only answer. He is the only one that can reach across the political aisle and rescue us from the antagonism and hatred that has become so normal. He is the only one who can search and rescue people from every walk of life. He is the only one that can stand between people who can't stand each other and say peace. He still he's the only one that can tear down the walls we have built and in its place create one new humanity closed in Christ, where enemies become brothers and strangers become family because friends at the cross of Jesus, there is grace for the sinner and the skeptic and the saint alike. Amen, there is equal Grace applied to every single person. Jesus reaches and saves people, just as Simeon prophesied Glory to the people of Israel and a light of revelation to the Gentiles, Simeon prophesies the cost for this to be true about Jesus, and he says in verse 34 then Simeon blessed them and told his mother, Mary, indeed, this child is destined to cause the Fall and Rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed and a sword will pierce your soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. This infant will be opposed in Mary, she will feel the piercing of her soul. Simeon does not sugar coat the future

awaiting this infant child, at eight days of age, Simeon, from the cradle, is prophesying the cross. He is prophesying what will happen to Jesus. And today, yes, the majority of the world pauses to celebrate Christmas, but I think in most cases, they're celebrating a season. They're celebrating festivities, gift giving, time off work, and the reality is just as it was then, even now, many still oppose Jesus. If Jesus had remained a baby, he would be fine. No one would have crucified and no one would oppose him. But Jesus grew up his very coming, his ministry was a declaration that we need a rescue. We needed salvation for us to get a savior man. We couldn't save ourselves. We couldn't be good enough, religious enough, have good intentions, enough to rescue ourselves. We needed God coming on a rescue mission. Jesus made some claims that were controversial then and now, claims like saying that he was the only way to the Father, that he is the truth, the way and the life, that apart from him, there is no life and there is no light. Jesus would invite us to repent of our sins, to trust Him alone, because at the end of the day, it's not good people who enter the kingdom of God. It's forgiven people who enter the kingdom of God.

Speaker 1 27:52

And these are the kinds of claims he made, declaring himself to be God who forgives that led him to a cross, a sign that was opposed, and 33 years later, Mary would experience the piercing in her soul as she watched her son die, and yet friends. All of that is the very purpose of Christmas.

Libin Abraham 28:21

Ancient church father of St Augustine, he would say like this, the maker of man became man. That he the bread my hunger, that he the fountain might thirst, that he the light my sleep, that he the way might be wearied by the journey, that he the truth might be accused by false witnesses, that he the judge of the living and the dead, might be brought to trial by mortal judge, that he justice might be condemned by the unjust, that he discipline might be scourged with whips, that he The Foundation, might be suspended upon a cross, that courage might be weakened, that healer might be wounded, and that life might die.

Speaker 1 29:14

Jesus did die, and everyone thought the story was over. But three days later, Jesus proved to us that He was the Son of God. There is more than a prophet, more than a martyr, more than a good teacher, that he was the Messiah, because three days later, the tomb was empty, and still to this day, no one can find his body. Amen, Hallelujah.

Libin Abraham 29:42

And then for 40 days, he appeared to over 500 people, bearing witness of the same Christ who was crucified, is risen. Then he ascended to the Father, and then he sent us the Holy Spirit. And today he is seated at the right hand of the Father. All. Glory, all majesty, all worship given to him. And one day, good news, he is returning as King of kings and Lord of lords, Amen Hallelujah. That is the hope of Advent. And in the in between time, he invites you and I to trust Him, to see what Simeon saw, guided by the Holy Spirit. He is God's salvation. He is the one you've been longing for. He is the only one you've been waiting for to turn from our sin, to place the whole weight of our life on Jesus. Simeon said that Jesus would reveal the thoughts of the human heart. So I wonder what thoughts you're thinking tonight. Do you bow your heads with me? What do you really think about this Jesus,

Unknown Speaker 30:53

about what he said about himself,

Libin Abraham 30:57

about his claims of himself. Tonight, I'm inviting you, guided by the Holy Spirit, receive him. Don't stand at a distance. Don't let your doubts keep you from him. Come with your questions, maybe even in the lack of clarity, what if you had Christ and that gave you the peace you longed for. There are others in this room. What you've been holding so tightly is the grief,

Unknown Speaker 31:29

the pain, the loss,

Libin Abraham 31:33

and perhaps you're in Christ, but you can't even feel the weight of him, because all you can feel the weight is of your regret, of your failure, of your frustration, my invitation today to you is perhaps you can't expel all the doubts and the fear, but

what if you felt the full wonder of Jesus,

Speaker 1 31:56

to be more heavy, to be more beautiful than everything else in your life. The invitation of Christmas is feel the wonder with your own soul, with your own heart, of who Jesus is, and let that bring peace and salvation.

Libin Abraham 32:16

You bow your heads with me, and as eyes are closed and heads bowed, there are some in this room who need, on this Christmas Eve to cross over the line of faith and receive Jesus into your life. And you've been feeling the prompting, maybe for weeks, maybe for months, maybe it's just been in the last hour, and the Spirit of God is saying to you, this is not a coincidence. This is a moment that changes the trajectory of your life. This is what you've been waiting for. You have searched for life in all the wrong places. You thought that relationship or that job or that substance or that thing would give you hope, but you know it'd be true that it's left you empty. But tonight, you're in need of something that lasts, and you can actually leave this place holding hope, holding salvation, because salvation has a face and a name, if that's you, just the privacy of this moment, would you just slip up your hands to God, saying, I need you, Jesus, God, I give you my life.

Unknown Speaker 33:16

I surrender my heart. Follow the prompting of the Spirit and just pray this in your heart, Jesus, I receive you. I don't

Libin Abraham 33:28

just want to hear songs about you. Don't just want to hear people talking. But no, no, I need you for myself. So today, I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord.

Speaker 1 33:42

He came for me, He died for me, and he rose from the grave for me, and when he comes, I want to be in that crowd of saints clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. Tell him how much you love him and how much you need him.

Libin Abraham 34:04

For all those who are in Christ, would you allow this moment to fill you with the wonder and weight of who Jesus is, the full glory of Christ felt by your own soul so Jesus, in this moment, overwhelm us with the weight of grace for the sinner, skeptic and the saint, may we meet Jesus afresh and feel the power and wonder of grace. We have beheld him

Unknown Speaker 34:33

God's salvation, and we are at peace

Libin Abraham 34:38

all this in the matchless and beautiful name of Jesus. We pray. We said together, amen, amen, can we give God thanks for the gift of Christ and for all of us today who place their faith in Jesus? Amen.