

# “Revealing the Thoughts of Many Hearts”

New Hope Community Church

February 3rd, 2019

Luke 2:33-40

## Life Group Meeting

Luke 2:33-40

### QUESTIONS

#### A. The Prophetic Words of Simeon (34,35)

1. He spoke words of **blessing** over Joseph and Mary
2. The future of the Jews will depend upon their **response** to Jesus
  - In this child is the hope for **resurrection**  
“appointed for the fall and rise of many”
  - In this child is the stone of stumbling for the **prideful** heart  
“a sign to be opposed”
3. The mission of this child will target the **hearts** of people
  - Mary’s heart will be penetrated with extreme **anguish**
  - The hearts of people will be fully **exposed**  
‘Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing’? (Ps 2:1)
  - The arrival of Jesus above all else reveals mans **evil** heart  
‘The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed’ (Ps 2:2)

#### B. The Prophetic Words of Anna (36-38)

1. Anna, a stark contrast to a heart built on human **pride**
  - Her **heritage** is unimpressive
  - Her **social** status was identified as being for many years alone
  - Her **daily** activities were marked by acts of extreme sacrifice
2. Anna recognized God’s provision of **salvation** and gave thanks
3. Anna **proclaimed** Who Jesus was to all who longed for Israel’s deliverance
4. Anna’s words helped fortify Joseph & Mary’s faith for the **journey**

#### Personal Response

- In these two saints we have examples of keeping a clear focus — **treasuring** Jesus, God’s gift of salvation, above all else.
- God has called us to **point** people to Jesus as Simeon & Anna did.

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek*  
Romans 1:16

- 1) Read Luke 2:33-40
- 2) Was there any particular truth from this week’s message that stuck with you?
- 3) Simeon spoke blessing over Joseph and Mary in spite of the painful words he was about to speak. What does the blessing of God really look like in the midst of great heartache? Have you experienced this?
- 4) Why do you think Simeon foretold Mary that ‘a sword will pierce even your own soul’?
- 5) ‘Signs’ in the Scripture are often special evidences that God gives to people in order to point them to Himself (eg. — creation, miracles, Jonah three days in the fish). In v. 34, what is the significance of Jesus being called ‘a sign to be opposed’?
- 6) In what sense does the arrival of Jesus expose the true heart of mankind more than any other way that God has reached out to us?
- 7) What do you think is the real significance of a woman like Anna serving day and night in the Temple in fasting’s and prayers?
- 8) Do you think Anna’s words had any impact upon Joseph & Mary?
- 9) Pray for one another.