



The Song of Simeon

During the time when Mary and Joseph lived, there was a law that said every first-born male baby must be taken to the temple and presented to God. In keeping with the Law of the Lord, Mary and Joseph traveled over four days from Bethlehem to Jerusalem to



bring the baby Jesus to the temple. An older man named Simeon was also at the temple. Simeon was a good, faithful man. He had been waiting a long time for God to save the people of Israel. He knew that God would send a savior for the people. While in the temple, God helped Simeon realize that the baby Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised. With Mary and Joseph's approval, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and immediately started to thank God for sending him.

Simeon praised God and proclaimed:

Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.

With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:

A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2: 29-32, Good News Version

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was being said about their baby. God promised Simeon that he would see the Savior before dying. Simeon thought this was a wonderful gift, to have his greatest wish come true. He would live long enough to see Jesus born.

This would be a gift for not just Simeon, but for all people of the world! Simeon, recognized greatness in the humblest of individuals. He recognized Jesus, the Savior in the baby. Jesus was hope for all the world!



Mother Teresa also recognized greatness in the humblest of individuals. She recognized Jesus in the suffering and the dying. She gave hope to people who felt uncared for and unloved, by seeing the face of Jesus in each one of them.

[Learn more about Mother Teresa here.](#)

Mother Teresa listened to God, even when God invited her to change her life. She chose to please God. She understood that God wanted her to help the poorest people of the world. By doing this, Teresa was able to meet God in the people she served.

Reflection

Is there anything that you have hoped for that was a nagging desire, something that you found yourself praying about? Was your prayer answered? How did you feel when you prayed? How did you feel when the prayer was answered? How do you feel if the prayer is not answered? How did Simeon feel when he recognized God's presence in his midst? How did Teresa of Calcutta feel when she recognized God in the poor people she served? If possible, write about this in your journal.



Let us pray

With hearts full of longing and with confidence in your promise, we approach you this day, O God. Wherever your people gather, you are in our midst. You often surprise us with your presence and gifts. Help us to be attentive to recognize your voice and respond faithfully to your invitation. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother and your Son. Amen.

References

- ❖ Bible for Today's Family, Luke 1: 57-79
- ❖ Closing prayer from *Intercessions of Mercy*, Joy Clough, RSM, editor.
- ❖ Images
 - Page 1 - ["Simeon and Anna Thank God for Sending Jesus" from www.LumoProject.com](http://www.LumoProject.com)
 - Page 2 - [Mother Teresa](#)