***Studies in Luke’s Gospel: Simeon – ‘keeping in step with the Spirit’ LK 2:21-35***

What do you want to be like at the end of your life? What do you want to have accomplished? You may not have done a lot of thinking about this, but take a few minutes to share some preliminary thoughts.

In this study we are going to look at Simeon, whose life ended well. He seemed to know how to live life with power and meaning.

1. Read Luke 2:21-35

2. Verse 21 of this chapter describes the circumcision and naming of Jesus (Matthew 1:21).

* Have you ever known God to speak to you in a dream such as was the case for Joseph? How might you be more intentional about hearing from God in this way?

3. We now find Joseph and Mary having travelled the short distance from Bethlehem to the Temple in Jerusalem. In this passage we see the background to this significant encounter with Simeon.

Luke 2:22-24 references the ancient ceremonies of

1. Redemption of the first born male (Exodus 13:2, Numbers 18:16)
2. Purification after childbirth (Leviticus 12:6-8).

* What do we learn from their offering about the economic status of Mary and Joseph?

4. Luke 2: 25 What do we learn about the character of Simeon? Do you know anyone like this who seems to have the ‘Holy Spirit upon them’? What makes them special?

* We find Simeon ‘Waiting’. How do you cope with waiting? (patiently or in frustration?)
* Do you find this quote helpful or not?

***‘Who you become while you are waiting is as important as what you are waiting for’.***

* How might the Holy Spirit have revealed this to Simeon v26? How does He speak or reveal things to you? Share an example of an occasion when you might have been led (moved) by the Spirit v27.
* How do you think Simeon felt when he saw Jesus?

5. Luke 2:29-32 Look at this ‘song’. What does he say about the salvation that is brought by Jesus?

Jesus wasn’t just the means of salvation, he embodies it. He is Saviour.

Our world is crying out for salvation from this pandemic. What difference does it mean to you to know Jesus as Saviour?

Nicky Gumbel**: ‘*Every time we use the name, Jesus, it reminds us that our greatest need is not for happiness or contentment (although these might be welcome by products). Our greatest need is for forgiveness. Therefore, we need a Saviour’****.* Do you agree with this?

* Simeon’s life work is now complete and he can die in peace, ‘for mine eyes have seen your salvation’. What does that suggest to you?
* What might you take away from this encounter with Simeon? What is God saying to you about keeping in step with the Spirit? Pray for one another that in these challenging times we might stay close to God and constantly be inspired by the presence of His Holy Spirit.