

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Would you please turn in your Bible with me to **Luke chapter 2, verse 25**? We read here about a man call called Simeon. Following the circumcision of our Lord, and after the days of purification for Mary, which was the custom in those days - for some strange reason, it was longer for the woman than for the man - Mary and Joseph came to the temple. They brought a sacrifice that was according to the law. They brought **a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons**. Now this was what could be brought if you could not afford to bring a lamb or a bullock, so that tells us they were very poor people. I want you to realize that Jesus understands your difficulty to get right through the day to feed the children. He knows the money has run out. He knows you have to go to get greens from the field and manage on that for a few days until you can buy some other food. He knows how you are faring financially. He, therefore, understands what it is to be poor. He does not despise you in your poverty, but He has promised to make what you have in your hand, as you walk with Him, to be enough to get you through. So, please call on Him in those circumstances in which you find yourself.

Then we read of . . . **Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel . . .** He had fulfilled his duties, waiting and waiting and waiting - every time somebody came there - looking for who this Messiah would be. He longed, as he had followed the Scriptures, to anticipate the coming of the Messiah. Some of us long, as we read the Scriptures, we long for the coming of our Lord. . . . **and the Holy Ghost - *the Holy Spirit* - was upon him.**

26 And it was revealed unto him - *Simeon* - by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

That is incredible! The faith and belief of this man was that he might be old, but he would be in there until Christ was to come.

27 And he came by the Spirit. . . - talk about timings! Do you find that in your life? Just those split-second timings. We think God does great, big wonderful things. I find it is the tiny things of the day that let me know God is in it. And he happened to come into the temple just at that moment, . . . **into the temple: the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law.** Now this is a poor-looking couple, not drawing a lot of attention to themselves, bringing this little baby.

28 And took he -*Simeon* - him - *Jesus* - up Jesus in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. Could you imagine holding this baby Jesus, and the witness of the Spirit telling him, "This is the one I kept you alive to

see?” For he goes on to say —

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles . . . I am a Gentile, and I thank God. If it had not been for the Lord Jesus, I don't even dare think where I would be and what would be happening. I don't dare think what would have happened to womanhood and all the things in the world, for it is where the Lord comes that the woman is elevated and the child is cared for and the hospitals come into being. . . . **and the glory of thy people Israel.**

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also:) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. What is this *sword*? Well, we know she was at the Cross and she beheld her Son. And, as He died in His agony on the Cross for you and me, He said, as he turned to John, one of his disciples, He said, “Your mother. Look after her.”

But also, it is a reminder, in this little town of Bethlehem, of what had happened years before. When Rachel died, she named her son

Ben-oni [son of my sorrow]; but his father called him Benjamin [son of my right hand]. And that is how God sees this One who is coming. She would witness this **son of my sorrow** and, at the same time, God speaking: **Son of My right hand.**

Let Him be your Saviour as He sees your sorrows and He is glorified in your life today.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.