

TITLE AND NUMBER: 13. God sees our hearts



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Luke 2:26-32, 36-38

It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

There was also a prophet, Anna...she never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

What does this Bible passage tell us?

God isn't looking for the VIPs of this world! He looks beyond success and good looks.

Today's media is full of news about VIPs: footballers, pop stars, actors. People copy them and want to know all about them. It was the same in Jesus' day. People wanted to be 'in' with the rich and famous. I'm sure the people who were in the temple that day noticed the VIPs: the famous Bible teachers, the rich people from elsewhere in the Roman Empire, and the priests with their special clothes. But that couple with the baby? They could have been anybody. They were nobody to take any notice of. Little did they know!

God looks beyond appearances and what we've done with our lives. He sees our hearts.

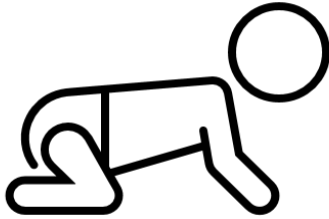
God knew that Mary was ready to serve Him. He knew that Simeon and Anna were waiting for the Saviour to come, and were listening to the Holy Spirit. That's why they were in the temple at just the right moment, when Joseph and Mary came to present their son to God. And that's how they were able to recognise Jesus as Saviour.

Right now, the God who made us is looking into our hearts, with love. He doesn't care what we look like, or where we are in society. He's looking for people who are ready to believe in Him, who want to live His way. People who will listen to Him and talk to Him. He's looking for us!

Reflections:

- Simeon was waiting to see the Lord's Messiah. Think of things you are waiting for, or have waited for in the past. How do you feel as you wait? And how do you feel when these things happen, especially if you have to wait a long time?
- Why do you think God chose to show Jesus to Simeon and Anna?
- How do you think Anna and Simeon felt after they had seen the baby Jesus?
- How do you feel, seeing that God chooses ordinary people like us?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

