

**Sermon: Faithfulness Through Hardship**  
**Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone**

**Scripture: Luke 2:21-40.**  
**Date: February 4, 2024**

---

**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) Explain who in this passage you relate to the most? Joseph and Mary, Simeon, Anna?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) What did God require from Mary and Joseph according to the Law? How does this requirement picture his salvation?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) How is Jesus described in verses 34-35? In what way does Jesus cause "rising and falling?" In what way does he have to "pierce our souls?"

**APPLICATION**

a) Martin Luther famously said, "All of life is repentance." Like a surgeon's scalpel, the "sting of repentance" is how Christ pierces our souls. What role does repentance play in your personal walk with Christ? Are you letting Christ reveal the sin beneath your sin?

b) Can you say like Simeon, "Now I can depart in peace?" Why or why not?

c) Think about Anna. What might a greater ministry of prayer look like for you moving forward?

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for continuing his redemptive plan through Jesus.
- Confess your impatience with God's timing.
- Thank Jesus for piercing your soul and revealing your need of him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into a life of constant repentance.