

. . . and she left her tears and heart behind: The Prophecy of Simeon

As I stated in last weekend's bulletin article, for the next seven weeks I will be taking a closer look at each one of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. The first sorrow is the prophecy of Simeon. "*. . . and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."* When Mary's 40-day period of purification after childbirth had almost ended, her and Joseph travel to Jerusalem to fulfill the Mosaic Law of the consecration of the firstborn son. Simeon's prophecy could almost be considered a "second Annunciation". Without a doubt, his powerful words lead Mary to a deeper understanding of her Son's mystery. At only 17 years of age, so much is expected of her. She is aware of the fact that it is only through divine inspiration that Simeon is able to announce this prophecy that will lead to her son's death. These words foretell a future of suffering for the Messiah. He stresses to Mary of the repercussions this will have on her heart. When Mary told the angel Gabriel, "I am the handmaiden of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.", she essentially was also giving her consent to be united with her Son in his redemptive sacrifice.

. . . and she left her tears and heart behind.

—Sherrie Clutts DRE