

²²When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ²³just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," ²⁴and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. ²⁷He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, ²⁸he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: ²⁹"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." ³³The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; ³⁴and 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 ³⁵(and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

A PROMISE FULFILLED

"...for my eyes have seen your salvation."
Luke 2:30

Bishop Tagle once wrote that every person is a promise waiting to be fulfilled and that forgiveness is an act of hope. For as long as you are able to forgive another person, you still have hope that God has the power to transform him.

I am often tempted to give up on certain people in my life. One such person is my brother-in-law. He was a seaman once but, for some reason, decided to stop working. For years he lived like a bum, totally dependent on his mother and brothers. To make matters worse, he started living-in with his girlfriend and eventually got her pregnant. Even then, he did not seem keen on getting a job.

It was natural for my husband to scold him, sometimes harshly, every time they met. But he saw it was not doing any good. He tried to be indifferent yet no matter how hard he tried, he could not turn his back on his own brother. Finally,

he decided to give him an extra dose of kindness and love. The change did not happen overnight. But soon my brother-in-law found a job. Today he is back to being a seaman and doing his best to build a bright future for his family. Thanks to our God, who chooses to save rather than condemn, his transformation has begun. Often, by simply loving and embracing other people, we pave the way for healing and for goodness to prevail. - **RPT/Quezon City**

Guide Question/s:

Whom do you need to forgive?
Do you still believe that person can change for the better?

God's word for me today:
