

# A Broad and Narrow Salvation

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 2:25-38

→ “My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel” (vv. 30-32).



## Big Idea

With the coming of Christ, God’s plan of salvation simultaneously *broadens* to include more than ethnic Israel (vv. 29-32), and *narrows* to include less than ethnic Israel (vv. 33-35).

### (1) A Broad Salvation (vv. 29-32)

God chooses from among fallen mankind, one man, Abraham, from which to establish a kingdom of priests and holy nation. They are certainly set apart from all the other nations. The other nations are excluded. But it was never intended to stay there. It is true that all of these ceremonies, these customs of the law, dealing with cleanness and uncleanness, morality and immorality, etc. were to set Israel apart from the Gentiles. But, in so doing, God was at the same time setting them up as a theater unto the nations. The nations were to look in and discern what God is like, what man is like, and where salvation is found. Israel was commissioned by God to keep telling the nations that ancient story of creation, fall, and coming redemption. They were not set apart by God not to be *superior* to the nations but to be *servants* of the nations!

Jesus comes as the full realization of Israel’s mission: exclusion for inclusion. He fulfills both sides of this dynamic. He is set apart, holy, the Son of God, God in the flesh, there is none like Him, we all are excluded from His righteousness, His perfection, His purity, His glory...and yet He comes to include us in them. The only One rightly included in the community of God was excluded from it on the cross, so that sinners—Jew and Gentile—alike might come running in!

And He gives now His same mission to the church who follows behind by His Spirit. We must keep both sides of this dynamic in tension. Some go hyper-exclusive, they stiff-arm the culture, pull away from it. Some, falling off on the other side, go hyper-inclusive, they limp-wrist the culture, embrace it wholesale. But the world desperately needs the church to maintain the exclusion-for-inclusion love of Jesus.

### (2) A Narrow Salvation (vv. 33-35)

The Christ it was assumed would deliver Israel from its years of foreign oppression and set them up at the head of the nations. But here the indication is that this Christ, will not merely deliver the nation, He will also divide it.

Jesus has a way of exposing what’s in a man. He’s not interested in the parade of empty religion. He doesn’t care about your skin. He wants your heart.



## Critical Action

Let us not despair of being an outsider when Christ has already invited us in! Let us not pride ourselves on being an insider lest we find Christ has thrown us out!



## Reflection Questions

- When you face the pressures of this world, which side are you more tempted to fall off on: hyper-exclusive or hyper-inclusive? Why do you think that is? How does Jesus keep both in tension? What would this look like in a situation you’re currently dealing with?
- Do you pride yourself in external marks? Does Jesus have your skin or your heart? How has Jesus exposed your parade of empty religion and made you the real thing?!
- Read of the lives of Simeon and Anna again. What stands out? How can you learn from them? How would this walk out in your upcoming week?