

The Sword of Sin  
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“And a sword shall pierce your own heart too.” (Luke 2:35)

“Everyone’s a sinner.” It’s something we often say. But we don’t always believe it is actually true: certain people, whether they are famous or simply personal “heroes,” seem incapable of sin.

Today, Simeon tells a Bible hero—Mary—she cannot escape the reach of sin. After praising Jesus, Simeon says to Mary, “And a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35). Some have taken this to mean that in Jesus’ life, which will end with His death on the cross, Mary, too, will find anguish and sorrow.

However, the words of Psalm 34:15 might give a deeper meaning to Simeon’s words: “But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.” David writes this about those who are “wicked” (Psalm 34:14), which also includes Mary, who bore the Savior of the world.

There is only One righteous in all His ways. And Jesus offered His righteous life for sinful people, including those we might include among our “heroes” like Mary. Yes, Mary, too, needed the salvation only her Son, Jesus, could give.

Today, rejoice that Jesus has come to bring all people forgiveness: no heroes, only one Hero, who has come to bring us salvation!

Dear Jesus, when the sword of sin pierces us and those we love, remind us of the forgiveness and salvation we have in Your death and resurrection for all. Amen.