



SIMEON & ANNA – Expectant Faith (Luke 2:25-38)

As we read the account of the birth of the Messiah in Luke 2 we already read of four special individuals who obeyed God's Word and were blessed because of it. _____ and _____ obeyed the law of God. They were poor, and yet they obeyed. Sometimes their obedience was inconvenient, and yet they obeyed. _____ and _____ also obeyed. They obeyed even when it seemed like there was no reward for their obedience and no one else seemed to listen to the Word of God or care what it said.

Luke uses the story of Simeon (2:25-35) and Anna (2:26-38) to demonstrate that the Christ-child is indeed the one whom Israel had been waiting for. Joseph and Mary were amazed at what they had to say about Jesus. These two elderly saints confirmed what the angels had told them about this special baby.

The lives and testimonies of Simeon and Anna strike against our common way of thinking. Often we perceive ourselves to have no _____. But the truth is that God treasures those who _____ Him. Woven into the testimonies of Simeon and Anna are three very special treasures.

THE TREASURE OF A _____ LIFE

Central to both these characters was their deeply rooted godliness. This meeting of the Christ-child was not an anomaly. Rather, it was the summit of their life-long commitment to God.

A. Godly people are distinguished by how they _____

Notice how Luke describes the character of Simeon in verse 25.

1. He is described as "_____"
2. He is called "_____"
3. He was "waiting for the consolation of _____"
4. The _____ was upon him."

Luke is stressing the devotion of both Simeon and Anna.

B. Godly people are distinguished by how they _____

Simeon was so excited he could hardly contain it! He took the child into his arms and professed the glory of the Messiah (2:29-32). Anna, likewise, gave thanks to God for sending the Messiah, and then, not stopping there, she went out and spoke to _____ who was looking for the redemption in Jerusalem (2:38). When they saw God at work they had to talk about it!

THE TREASURE OF _____ PURPOSE

Simeon, whose name means "_____", is an example of how God honors those who engage in quiet prayer and constant watchfulness. Anna, whose name means "_____", is an example of how God gives grace to those who continue to walk with him.

A. The Gospel brings purpose in _____

The ages of Simeon and Anna are very important in this text. Luke is making a point to note that these people have been patiently waiting for the Messiah. Here are two people near the end of their life, still _____ God full steam ahead.

B. The Gospel brings purpose in _____

What would prompt you to say, "Okay, now I'm ready to _____!"? That's essentially what Simeon was saying. Are you in that place in your life? If you discovered that you were going to die tomorrow, would you be ready to go? Would you be able to depart in peace?

THE TREASURE OF _____ PATIENCE

Simeon was nearly _____ years old and Anna was _____. They had waited a long time to see the Savior.

A. Patience is found in faithful _____

Simeon didn't stop going to the temple, he didn't stop worshipping his God. Anna was clearly faithful. Verse 36 points out that she was a "_____." The day probably began like every other day for these two but they were ready for the Messiah because they were always faithful in service.

B. Patience is found in firm _____

Simeon was a man of patient faith, yet his wait for the Messiah must have seemed never-ending. He likely had many opportunities to _____ and yet we read that he remained "devout." Anna remained faithful even though her family members did not. She is identified in our passage as a member of the "tribe of _____" (2:36). This was one of the northern tribes of Israel that rebelled against God. Yet, even though her tribe resisted God she remained faithful to God.

Concluding Thoughts

One person rightly said, "We know the cost of everything and the value of nothing." Sadly, many of us don't realize the value of our own life. We are tempted to think we have no _____. Simeon and Anna lived out an expectant faith but all through their lives God was showing them their true _____. He showed them their value by working into their testimonies some great treasures and these same treasures can be woven into our lives today.

God _____ those who _____ Him.