

Encountering Christmas

Simeon & Anna

Luke 2:22-39

MAIN IDEAS

- Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the Temple for her purification
- The Spirit leads Simeon into the Temple to bless Jesus and his family
- Simeon proclaims foreknowledge of Jesus' future work
- The prophetess Anna gives thanks and proclaims foreknowledge of Jesus' redemptive work for His people

Read Leviticus 12 which describes the law of purification after childbirth. What does this act of Joseph and Mary tell us about God's redemptive plan?

Is there anything we learn about Jesus' family from the offering they choose to bring?

The characters of Simeon, Joseph, and Mary were led to the same place at the same time. What does this say about the sovereignty of God and our part in His plan?

How does Simeon's prayer (vv. 29-32) summarize the work of Jesus?

Simeon's prophecy in verses 34 and 35 describes the responses to Jesus' work. What do you think is the meaning of "fall and rising" (v. 34). Read Hebrews 4:12. How does this help us understand the response of people to Jesus?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Do you have a hard time waiting upon God? What lessons can you take away from Simeon's example?

Simeon details Jesus' future. How do you think that knowing your children's future or your grandchildren's would affect the way you live your life, your faith, and your trust in God?

Reflect on Anna's example of "worship(ing) night and day, fasting and praying" (v. 37). Set three goals for the new year that will reflect her example of commitment to the Lord.

GROUP RESPONSE

The two examples of elderly believers in this passage are a reminder of older people in our lives who love the Lord and are examples of spiritual maturity. How can we tap into their wisdom and experience in our ministries?

As we look to our future as a church, are we trusting God and His plan for it? Let's be thanking Him for His sovereign plan and praying for our faithfulness in it.

REPRODUCE

Simeon gives thanks to God for Jesus, "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel." The conversion and discipleship of unbelievers - Jew and Gentile - was Jesus' purpose for coming. How is the Christmas story an inspiration for your life and the mission of the Church?

Anna, like the shepherds, spoke about Christ to everyone who was waiting for the redemption. Take up this challenge from the Christmas story and make a short list of those in your family or circle of friends who need to hear about Jesus. Commit to praying for one of them and for the opportunity to speak of Jesus.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Luke 2:22-39

Additional verses from the study

- Leviticus 12
- Hebrews 4:12