

Taking it Home:

- Special project for this week. READ the following Scriptures and determine whether the Scriptures refer to Jesus as Prophet, Priest or King: Hebrews 3:1; 5:1-10; 7:1-28; 8:16; 9:11-15; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16; Matthew 21:11; Luke 1:76. What is Jesus' role as our Priest? What is Jesus' role as our Prophet? What is Jesus' role as our King?
- Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah & Savior is called a believer's Prophet, Priest and King. Throughout Luke chapter 1 & 2, Dr. Luke has set up something fascinating for the reader to Discover: **Read Luke 1 & 2 and Matthew 2:1-12 and interpret.**
 - **Priestly approval of the Messiah** – Narrative of the priest Zacharias & his wife Elizabeth
 - **Kingly approval of the Messiah** – Narrative of the Wise Men who worship the Messiah (Matthew 2:1-12)
 - **Prophetic approval of the Messiah** – Narrative of Simeon and Anna
- It is obvious from the study of the life of Anna that she demonstrated a very "long" life of worship, joy, perseverance, faithfulness, praise and celebration of our Lord and Savior. What would Jesus write about you if your name was written in the Scriptures for everyone to read? Is there an element of joy, faithfulness, praise or worship missing in your life? What's holding you back from experiencing a life like Anna's?

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

Old Guys Rule
Anna
Luke 2:36-38

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
July 10, 2011

Old Guys Rule Anna

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of July 10, 2011

Luke 2:36-38

Quick Review: Fulfilling the Hebrew laws of Leviticus 12, Mary & Joseph take baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him to Yahweh. While at the temple, Mary and Joseph meet two old pious sages of faith; Simeon and Anna. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah (Luke 2:25-26). While Simeon is at the temple the Holy Spirit reveals to him that the baby Mary and Joseph are carrying is indeed the Messiah. As Simeon held baby Jesus in his arms, he blessed baby Jesus and then blessed Mary & Joseph. Mary and Joseph were amazed at the things which were being said about their baby. Anna, a very old and very godly woman who is a devout worshipper “serving night and day” at the temple (v. 37), sees and overhears the conversation between Simeon and the young couple and their infant. Anna, realizing the child Simeon was holding was the Messiah, began giving thanks to God and continued to speak of baby Jesus to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem (v. 38).

My Story:

- Typically there is an “older” person in most younger person’s life in whom they “look up to,” or are drawn to for “wisdom and guidance” in their life. Share about the older person who you look (ed) up to as you were growing up or possibly you still look to for seeking guidance and spiritual wisdom.
- Is there an older person (older than you) you know who models Christlikeness? An older person who walks what they talk and is the genuine model of a born-again believer? Share what attributes you see in that person which makes you admire them.

Growing Deeper:

- Names in the Bible were not given by accident or because they were popular, they were given by design or intentionality. What does the name Anna mean? What does the name of Anna’s father, Phanuel mean? What did Pastor Matthew tell us which gave significance about those names? Do you know what your name means? This week find out the meaning of your name.
- The narrative of Luke chapters 1 & 2 shines significance on four older people whom God used in a mighty way to prepare for His Son’s, Jesus’ arrival on earth. What did Pastor Matthew say was so meaningful about (1) “old” Zacharias & Elizabeth in Luke 1? (2) “Old” Simeon in Luke 2:25-35? (3) “old” Anna in Luke 2:36-38?
- According to Luke 2:36, Anna had been widowed for 84 years; she was married for only 7 years when her husband died, and she was between 13 to 15 years old when she was married (typical Hebrew custom). How old would that make Anna in the narrative of Luke 2:36-38? Why would God be willing to use an old woman “sage” at her very old age? According to Luke chapter’s 1 & 2, does a person ever get too old to declare God’s glory or to be used mightily for God’s purpose? Discuss.
- Pastor Matthew shared 3 **very** important points about Anna’s life and godly character that are very relevant for those living in Fargo, ND in 2011: What did Pastor Matthew & Luke’s narrative in 2:36-38 say about:
 - Anna’s lifetime of Piety (godly character)
 - Anna’s continuous Praise for God
 - Anna’s exhaustive Proclamation to “all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem?”
 - Is it easy to understand why God would want Anna’s testimony to be read in the Bible by millions of people for 2 millennia so everyone could know her awesome story of piety, praise & proclamation?
 - Compare your current spiritual journey to Anna’s; what would God say about your spiritual life if He added your testimony in the Bible?
- What is **so significant** about Anna’s reputation, her life of piety, her servant’s heart and her love of worshipping God “day & night”? What are Anna’s priorities of life? What can you personally take away from this wonderful “old” godly sage’s life example?