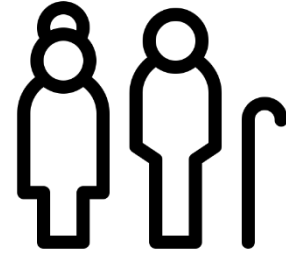


December 27, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
Christmas: Simeon and Anna



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This Advent we have meditated on the different characters around the birth of Jesus.

In the story of Christ's birth, we have looked at the Shepherds, the Wise men who traveled far, at Joseph, Mary, and our Savior, Jesus.

In this section of our meditation we will learn from two senior servants of God, one a woman and the other a man. Anna and Simeon.

Simeon and Anna

Luke 2:21-38

²¹On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

²²When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom

of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Godly Man and Woman at the Temple

1. SIMEON. The Hebrew name Sim-on was derived from the word shama, meaning "to hear" (see Genesis 29:33, "The Lord heard")

He was righteous and devout.

He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.

The Lord promised him through the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

He was led and guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Truth.

John 14:16-17 - The Lord Jesus promised it to his disciples that he would ask his father to send you another Comforter which is the Spirit of truth.

14:26 - “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

The same spirit inspired Simeon and so he was moved by the Spirit to go the temple courts, when the parents of Jesus brought him to the temple. The purpose of bringing the baby was to fulfill the Law of Moses for the consecration rites as listed, (Luke 2:23). Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed him, saying these things:

1. Lord thank you for fulfilling the promise you gave me.
2. Let me depart in peace from this world as I have experienced and seen the salvation of mankind.
3. Giving the message to the parents of Jesus.

This is the message he gave to Mary:

- a. “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel.”
- b. “And to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”
- c. “And a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

All these blessings and prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Christ. Mary saw Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

2. ANNA. The Greek form of the Hebrew “Hannah,” meaning “grace.” She was the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was a widow and a prophetess. Anna lived with her husband for only seven years. She came to live in the temple of the Lord and remained there and now was eighty-four years old.

She worshiped day and night, with fasting and praying.

When she saw the baby Jesus, let us see her response.

1. She came to him.
2. Gave thanks to God
3. Spoke about the child –
To all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Both these seniors experienced the promise of God in their life-time. Both shared the message which the Lord had given them with Joseph and Mary, with others present, and through the Bible, with us today.

What do we learn through their lives?

- a. Continuously Worship the Lord in his temple.
- b. Fasting and prayer become our daily living. This will help us not to fall into temptations and sin.
- c. Remember the blessings of God and give thanks.
- d. Enter his gates with thanksgiving in our hearts and praise on our lips.
- e. The Lord always keeps his promise.
- f. Whatever message God has given you for particular people, always give it.
- g. Be filled with the Spirit of God and live according the direction given, and we must never lose the way to life.
- h. The Spirit of truth reminds us about the words and instruction of our Lord Jesus. He removes the filthy and improper thoughts from our mind and leads us to the life of truth.
- i. The Spirit leads us to bear the fruits listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

We pray that our life will be based on his word and led by the Spirit. May we experience the presence of Christ in our lives. May we know him and love and serve him.