

## **The Characters of Christmas Part Four - Simeon and Anna**

### **Luke 2:25-32**

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. 30 I have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared for all people. 32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

### **Luke 2:36-38**

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. 37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

### **Simeon and Anna lived on a mission. Do we?**

### **Matthew 5:14-16**

"You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

### **Six Character Traits of Simeon and Anna:**

#### **1. They were God-fearing.**

**Vs. 25,** (Simeon) was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel.

#### **2. They were Spirit-led.**

**Vs. 27,** That day the Spirit led (Simeon) to the Temple.

### **Psalms 143:10**

You are my God. Show me what you want me to do, and let your gentle Spirit lead me in the right path.

### **3. They had missional awareness.**

**Vs. 32**, “He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

### **4. They loved God’s house.**

**Vs. 37a**, (Anna) never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God...

#### **Matthew 16:18**

...and on this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

#### **Psalm 84:10**

A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

### **5. They lived a prayerful and fasted life.**

**Vs. 37b**, (Anna) worshipped God with fasting and prayer.

### **6. They shared the gospel.**

**Vs. 38**, (Anna) talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

#### **John 12:32**

“And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”

**Our God-given goals should be treated with missional dedication.**

#### **Psalm 37:4**

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.