

December 15

Character: Anna the Prophet

Setting: The past couple of days we've discussed an older man, named Simeon, who lived his life in anticipation of seeing the Messiah. The moment he saw Jesus, he immediately knew that this was the promised child – the one the Holy Spirit told him he would see before his life ended. Simeon's praise was heard throughout Jerusalem that day, and his song has served as a reminder of the hope and peace Jesus' birth brought into the world. Today we're going to discuss another person who was at the temple that day when Simeon found Jesus. Our passage begins in Luke 2, chapter 36. Please read along with me.

Scripture: Luke 2:36-40

Application: Like Simeon, Anna was described as being very old. She was 84 years old on the day she met the Messiah. The Bible says she never left the temple. She stayed there every day and night worshipping God with fasting and prayer. Anna entered today's scene when Simeon was talking with Mary & Joseph, and she immediately began praising God. The Holy Spirit had given her eyes to see who Jesus was, and her mouth responded with praise. Anna didn't keep this revelation to herself, but instead she talked about this child to EVERYONE who had been waiting for God to rescue them. And really that would include every Jewish person in this land. Anna was called a prophet because she spoke for God and boldly proclaimed His truth. And like Simeon, Anna persevered in faithfulness and finished the race well. A lifetime of faithful service ended with her being one of the first witnesses to see and recognize the incredible gift God gave the world through the life of a baby. Anna had the privilege and honor of seeing the gift of salvation wrapped in a blanket, small enough to hold in her arms but powerful enough to change the entire world. Her eyes beheld the glory of God himself. Discuss this event in your household tonight, and allow yourselves to imagine what it will be like when you finish this race, and waiting for you on the other side of the finish line is a prize far more precious than anything this world has to offer. It's the gift of seeing the beautiful face of your Savior, Your Redeemer, Your Jesus.

Prayer: Praise God for the gift he gave the prophet Anna who faithfully served Him all the days of her life. Thank Him for the promise of rewarding all of us who believe in Jesus with the prize of eternal life with Him. Ask Him to give us stamina to persevere, and faithfully serve the Lord, and courageously tell others about Him all the days of our lives.