

## Anna -- A Focus on Gratitude

### Two Things We Will Learn . . .

1. There are \_\_\_\_\_ of people (in fact, the vast majority) who want to celebrate Christmas in the true "Christmas \_\_\_\_\_," but are simply not \_\_\_\_\_ on the right things.
2. If \_\_\_\_\_ are your priority, you \_\_\_\_\_ miss Christmas.

### The Scriptures

Luke 2:36 There 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, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming 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.

### Anna's Focus

Last week, we learned that Simeon was focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

It seems that Anna was focused on ONE thing -- \_\_\_\_\_!

### The Woman - Anna

The name -- means "\_\_\_\_\_."

Her age -- She was \_\_\_\_\_ 84 or over \_\_\_\_\_ years of age.

She was married for \_\_\_\_\_ years and then either \_\_\_\_\_ 84 years or was a \_\_\_\_\_ for 84 years.

She was a \_\_\_\_\_ -- (this means "a woman who \_\_\_\_\_ or teaches the Word of the Lord.")

1Cor. 14:3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

There are two views on this:

1. She held the "\_\_\_\_\_ " of a prophetess. There are 5 women with this \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible: Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Noadiah and Anna. (Also Philip's four daughters prophesied.)



2. She is called a prophetess because of what she \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ passage.

Luke 2:38 . . . and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

She was the daughter of Phanuel and \_\_\_\_\_ importantly of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Asher.

2Chr. 30:11 Nevertheless, some men of Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem.

She \_\_\_\_\_ left the temple. It was \_\_\_\_\_.

### Her Character:

She worshipped God \_\_\_\_\_. (Consider the life God had "dealt her." Could you have worshipped God given this situation?)

In her worship, she \_\_\_\_\_ and fasted. (The assumption here is that she prayed for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah, or Israel's redemption.)

Luke 2:38 . . . spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Psa. 130:7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

Luke 24:21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

### Her Focus

She was focused on Israel's \_\_\_\_\_. Note God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 2:38 Coming up to them at that very moment, . . .

She was focused on \_\_\_\_\_. Because she fully \_\_\_\_\_ the words of Simeon concerning the child, she gave thanks that this child was \_\_\_\_\_ the Messiah.

She \_\_\_\_\_ about the child to everyone who had the \_\_\_\_\_ hope.

### Your Focus

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of people who worship God and are thankful in \_\_\_\_\_ situations become \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In this holiday season, are \_\_\_\_\_ taking the time to give \_\_\_\_\_ to God for the gift of His Son?

Father, in this Christmas season my hope is found only in your Son, Jesus Christ. I am continually thankful to you for all of life. I want to honor you with my obedience and I want to be like you as I give to others. Amen.

