

Anna & Simeon: Growing Old with God
Luke 2:21-40
April 20, 2022

Introduction: When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple at the age of 40 days, they encountered two older people: Simeon and Anna. Both had lived long and well with God.

Review and Questions:

1. If you were a bystander observing the events in Luke chapter 2, what would have impressed you? Why?
2. Why did Jesus and his family go to Jerusalem (vv.23-24)?
3. In what ways was Simeon already prepared to meet Jesus (vv.25-27)?
4. What did Simeon know about the past and the future (vv.29-35)?
5. Why did Simeon feel that he was ready for God to dismiss him from this life (vv.26,29)?
6. What would you like to see happen so that you could say at the end of your life, "Lord now dismiss your servant in peace"?
7. Focus on verses 36-44, why might you say that Anna's life was difficult but fulfilling?
8. How did God use Anna?
9. How did the next stage of crisis life prepare him to do and be what Anna and Simeon had predicted (vv.39-40)?
10. What do you admire about the aged characters in this story?
11. What could you do now to prepare for an old age that is at peace with God?

Reflect and Pray:

- What do you look forward to as you age?
- What qualities have you admired in people who are older?
- What qualities do you hope to avoid as you get older?
- What does it mean to age gracefully?

Now and Later: *As you visit with seniors or those who are older than you take the time to stop and have conversations with them and maybe even offer a word of prayer. Pick a nursing home that you can pray for in the area. Consciously look for examples that you would like to emulate as you grow older in others. Begin now to cultivate the person you want to become as you grow older with God.*

- What does the Bible say about growing older?

Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for the lessons I have learned from those who are older and wiser. Thank you for those who age gracefully with God. Amen.*