

Title: Blessed Anticipation

Text: Luke 2:36-38

Target: The Advent season, or better understood as the season of Jesus' coming or arrival, was marked by ANTICIPATION. Our first response in preparing our Heart for the Gift of Jesus is to long for His coming.

- I. **The Anointing of Anna:** *"And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher."* (Vs. 36)
 - A. **The Look at Her Legacy:**
 1. **Meaning of Her Name:** *"Anna"*
 2. **Ministry of Her Title:** *"prophetess"*
 - B. **The Link In Her Lineage:**
 1. **Morality of Her Father:** *"Phanuel"*
 2. **Mention of Her Tribe:** *"Asher"*

- II. **The Adversity of Anna:** *"and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day."* (Vs. 37)
 - A. **The Length of Her Loneliness:**
 1. **Reveals Her Past:** *"lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin"* (Vs. 36b)
 2. **Reminder of Her Pain:** *"widow until she was eighty four"* (Vs. 37)
 - B. **The Legacy of Her Life:**
 1. **Point of Her Persistence:** *"she did not depart from the temple"* (Vs. 37a)
 2. **Priority of Her Praise:** *"worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day"* (Vs.37b)

- III. **The Announcement of Anna:** *"And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem."* (Vs. 38)
 - A. **The Learning of Her Longing:**
 1. **The Timing of Her Arrival:** *"at that very hour"* (Vs. 38a)
 2. **The Thanksgiving of Her Adoration:** *"she began to give thanks to God"* (Vs. 38a)
 - B. **The Legitimacy of Her Language:**
 1. **Leveraging of Her Influence:** *"all who were waiting"* (Vs. 38b)
 2. **Light of Her Insight:** *"redemption of Jerusalem."* (Vs. 38b)

Take Away: Is my life marked by Anticipation on a daily basis of encountering His presence?