

## Sermon Notes

**Title:** The Waiting Room

**Text:** Luke 2:36-38

**Target:** The space between your breakthrough and your burden is the place God does the miracle in you.

- I. **The Significance of Anna:** *“And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.”* (Vs. 36)
  - A. **Meaning of Her Name:** *“Anna”* - Finding Favor
  - B. **Magnitude of Her Title:** *“prophetess”* - One and Only time mentioned in the New Testament.
  - C. **Mention of Her Father:** *“Phanuel”* -Face to Face with God.
  - D. **Measure of Her Tribe:** *“Asher”*
  
- II. **The Sorrow of Anna:** *“lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.”* (Vs. 36b-37a)
  - A. **Reveals Her Past:** Became a young widow at the age of 21.
  - B. **Reminder of Her Pain:** Stayed a widow for 84 years. (14+7+84=105)
  
- III. **The Steadfastness of Anna:** *“She did not depart from the temple worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.”* (Vs.37b)
  - A. **Priority of Proximity:** *“She did not depart from the temple”*
  - B. **Persistence in Praise:** *“worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day”*
  
- IV. **The Surprise for 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. **Perfect Timing:** *“very hour”*
  - B. **Progressive Tense:** *“speak of him”*
  - C. **Personal Testimony:** *“who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem”*

**Takeaway:**

- **Stay Hopeful in your Hurting**

- **Do not grow Weary in Waiting**
- **Keep Believing for Breakthrough**
- **Be the Evidence of Encouragement**

## **Key Things to Remember for Your Community Group Time**

1. Pray before your group meets and ask God to direct the conversation, that He will give you the words He wants you to say, and ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group.
2. Not every group will have questions, concerns, or comments about each week's sermon, so be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. (And encourage the group to listen to the entirety of Pastor Ed's message prior to your meeting. That will help remove any possible confusion on the topic and what was said.)
3. Remember to be sure and listen to the person with the question, concern, or comment.
4. Ask good & clarifying open-ended questions to see if they can or will share the story behind their thoughts. The more you know about the story, the better your approach can be to answering.
5. Always and accurately use bible verses that take into account the whole heart of God.
6. Remember it is ok if we don't all see things the same way. The important thing is to listen, respect, and honor one another with the conversation.
7. It is ok to say you do not know the answer to the question. Appropriate responses are, "Let's set up a time and look through bible verses together to find the answer." Another response "That is great. Let me get with one of our CBC Pastors and get back to you on the answer."
8. It is not our job to change someone else's mind, but rather to talk through the situation and the truth from God's Word and let the Holy Spirit lead each person.
9. Utilize the resources listed below if someone needs help beyond what your group can provide.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Our text describes how Anna carried her burden for 84 years before experiencing the breakthrough God had in store for her. Like Anna, have you ever endured a

difficult season of life where you carried a burden while hoping and praying for a breakthrough? What did that feel like?

2. Luke makes it a point to record that in the midst of Anna's pain, her steadfastness to God was tied to her continued presence in the temple. Pastor Ed called this "Priority of Proximity." What blessings come with continually pursuing God during a time of difficulty? What dangers could we potentially face if we neglect this pursuit?
3. Throughout Scripture, God reveals His deep care for those in pain and His ability to deliver breakthroughs within His perfect timing. David witnessed this time and time again in his life and the lives of those around him. As a group, read David's response to being delivered from the attacks of King Saul in 2 Samuel 22:2-4. Share an example of how you have seen God bring breakthrough in your life or the life of someone you know. Have you seen this testimony later help others in their time of trouble?
4. (delete in favor of Q.5) Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 as a group. In what ways can we (as individuals and as a group) comfort others walking through times of difficulty?
5. Go around the room and discuss this year's fast. Ask:
  - What are you fasting for (Breakthrough/ asking God to do)?
  - What are you fasting from (Food/ habits you will sacrifice)?

During this year's fast, prioritize encouragement and accountability with one another!

## Additional Resources:

**CBC Care & Support** (210-253-5971)

- **CBC Care & Support:** [website](#)
- **Professional Counseling Referrals:** [list here](#)
- **The Landing (CBC Care Ministry for Students):** [website](#). A student ministry geared towards Jr. High and HS age students. The Landing provides a safe place for our

students to process life and the struggles that accompany it, provide tools to help them live emotionally and spiritually healthy lives, and point them towards the freedom found in Jesus Christ.

- **Jeanie Postell** - C&S Pastor and Director, Staff counselor, 210-477-1748 or [jeanie.postell@cbc.email](mailto:jeanie.postell@cbc.email)
- **Frank Kirby** - Director of Marriage Ministries, 210-253-5979 or [frank.kirby@cbc.email](mailto:frank.kirby@cbc.email)
- **Denise Espino** - Director of Mental Health Support Groups and CBC Cares, 210-237-4942 or [denise.espino@cbc.email](mailto:denise.espino@cbc.email)
- **Carolyn Powell** - Director of Prayer Ministries and Support Groups (DivorceCare & GriefShare), 726-262-5363 or [carolyn.powell@cbc.email](mailto:carolyn.powell@cbc.email)
- **Lisa Guerra** - Clinical Counselor, 210-848-5170 or [lisa.guerra@cbc.email](mailto:lisa.guerra@cbc.email)
- **Melli Melgoza** - Director of Recovery Groups, 726-215-8127 or [melli.melgoza@cbc.email](mailto:melli.melgoza@cbc.email)
- **Brian Madtes** - Director of Leadership and Spiritual Development, 210-253-5977 or [Brian.Madtes@CBC.email](mailto:Brian.Madtes@CBC.email)
- **CBC Care & Support Lay Counseling:** 210-477-1742 Ext. 1179