

Anna and Simeon

Luke 2: 21-38

FIRST THOUGHTS

- Luke reminds us that the first Christmas was anything but impressive by worldly standards.
- No palace...No spotlight...No religious elite waiting with banners...No public party or celebration.
- Instead, we see a poor couple, an obedient act of the Law, and two elderly saints who had been waiting quietly on God.

THE SAVIOR SUBMITS TO THE LAW

- Partly because Jesus' parents were faithful and obeyed the Law.
- Jesus is circumcised.
- Purification according to the Law
- Jesus is presented at the temple.
- Everything is done "according to the Law of the Lord."
 - This matters because Jesus didn't come *AROUND* the law, He came *UNDER* the law.

UPSIDE DOWN TRUTH: The lawgiver submitted Himself to the Law in order to fulfill the law for us, because we never could.

- Before Jesus preaches a sermon...Before He tells a parable...Before he performs a miracle...Before He goes to the cross...JESUS OBEYS
 - Galatians 4:4-5
- Offering the sacrifice: an offering allowed for the poor.
 - The Lamb of God is brought to the temple by parents who couldn't afford a lamb. This truth amazes me.

UPSIDE DOWN TRUTH: Salvation doesn't come through wealth, influence, or status. It comes through humility and obedience.

GOD REVEALS SALVATION TO THE FAITHFUL, NOT THE FAMOUS

- Who is Simeon?
 - Simeon is not a priest...He's not a ruler...He's not a scholar
 - Simeon was righteous, devout, and faithfully waiting on the Lord.
 - Simeon had been waiting through Roman occupation, silence from God, and while other's gave up hope.

UPSIDE DOWN TRUTH: The Savior is revealed to those who wait faithfully.

THE SAVIOR WILL DIVIDE HEARTS

- CHRISTMAS IS NOT NEUTRAL
 - Salvation demands a response and the same savior that brings peace, also reveals hearts.

UPSIDE DOWN TRUTH: is that Jesus is not just comforting—He is confronting.

GOD HONORS FAITHFUL WORSHIP AND WITNESS

- Then Luke introduces Anna.
 - An elderly widow...Married seven years, widowed for decades...described as faithful, praying, fasting
 - Anna gave EVERYTHING she had to God, and God HONORS her faithfulness and her worship by allowing her to meet Jesus, the Savior, face to face.
 - Anna, the first evangelist
 - The Upside Down Truth is that God uses faithful people, not famous people, to proclaim the greatest news of all.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Luke 2 reminds us:
 - God works through obedience, not spectacle
 - God reveals Himself to the faithful, not the famous
 - God uses the overlooked to proclaim the greatest news
 - Jesus didn't come loudly. He came **faithfully**.
 - He didn't arrive with power. He arrived with **humility**; submitting to the law.

THE UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS reminds us that God works through humility, obedience, and faithful waiting. God's plan of salvation often looks upside down to the world, but He is always faithful to His promises.

- Will you trust Christ's obedience instead of your own effort?
- Will you wait faithfully even when God seems silent?
- Will you testify boldly, even if the world overlooks you?
- This Christmas, don't miss Jesus because He didn't come the way you expected. Will you trust Him today?