



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 18, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 2:36-38

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 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. 38 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.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In this week's message we learn of Anna, the prophetess. Anna was a widow which, in first century Judaism, was a very precarious station in life. She was alone, with no husband or children. Yet for Anna, her longing for her Lord, eclipsed her longing for anything else. Her suffering in this life did not push her away from God, but rather drew her all the more close to Him. She was deeply devoted to her Lord, a woman of great worship, and completely satisfied in God alone.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think suffering and hardship in this life might drive some people away from God? In Anna's case, her widowhood, childlessness, and suffering did not push her away, but drove her closer to her Lord. Why do you think this was the case?
2. In this world, God in His sovereign wisdom, may withhold some things from us. We may never get the next promotion, never move into a bigger home, never get married or have children. However, one thing He will never withhold from us is Himself. What do you desire more in this world - the things of the world, or God Himself? In what ways might you be filling yourself up on "meatballs and chips" instead of enjoying the "prime rib"? How would you explain to someone that God Himself is sufficient to meet your deepest needs and desires?
3. Anna prayed for decades for God to send the Redeemer to Israel. What would drive a person to such patient, fervent, and persistent prayer? In our world of instant noodles and microwave ovens, what change in perspective is needed so that the church would become filled with men and women of patient, persistent, and fervent prayer?
4. Although Anna is described as a "prophetess", one who speaks on behalf of God, Luke does not record a single word she says. Instead, he describes her single hearted worship of God and her satisfaction and joy at seeing the arrival of Jesus Christ. How about you? Explain how your actual devotion to God compares to the words that come out of your mouth.
5. Anna had nothing in this life and yet her joy and devotion to God was absolutely evident. She was completely satisfied by her Lord and Savior. Explain what you think John Piper means when he says, "God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him".