

Text: Luke 2:21-38

Title: They Believed

Sermon in a Sentence: Authentic faith doesn't have to be proclaimed; it will be seen.

Question: What are some ways we can let our lives proclaim our faith?

I. Our faith is proclaimed through spiritual discipline.

- A. Mary and Joseph made no excuses regarding their spiritual responsibilities.
 - 1. Mary and Joseph did not dodge their spiritual responsibilities even though they were responsible for caring for God's Son.
 - 2. They presented Jesus for the covenantal rite of circumcision.
 - Leviticus 12:3- ***And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.***
 - 3. Mary and Joseph presented the required sacrifice for their own purification.
 - Leviticus 12:8- ***And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean.***
- B. We have to guard against finding excuses to dodge our spiritual responsibilities.

II. Our faith is proclaimed through a life of devotion.

- A. Simeon's life was devoted to God.
 - 1. Simeon was righteous.
 - 2. Simeon was devout.
 - 3. Simeon was anointed by the Holy Spirit.
- B. Simeon's devotion was rewarded by allowing him to see the Christ.
- C. Simeon's relationship with God was more than surface deep.
 - 1. He blessed God when he saw Jesus.
 - 2. He blessed Joseph and Mary.
- D. When we walk closely with God, we too get to experience some incredible things.

III. Our faith is proclaimed through the testimony we deliver.

- A. Though she is not discussed as much as Simeon, Anna plays an important part in this narrative.
 - 1. She is the second witness.
 - a) Deuteronomy 19:15- ***A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.***
 - b) Matthew 18:16- ***But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.***

2. It is a witness that comes from a woman.
- B. Anna expressed her faith through her testimony of God's goodness.
- C. Anna's testimony stemmed from a devoted life similar to Simeon's.
- D. As Christians, our testimony will never exceed our walk with Christ.