

LONG PAST PRIME

Luke 2:25-38

May 6, 2007 Sunday p.m.

INTRODUCTION

A. You Know You're Getting Old When....

1. Your joints are more accurate than the weatherman.
2. It takes twice as long to look half as good.
3. People call at 9 pm and ask if they woke you up.
4. The pharmacist has become you new best friend.
5. Your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.
6. Happy hour is a nap.
7. Your idea of weight lifting is standing up.
8. It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired.
9. Younger women start opening doors for you.

B. Do you remember....?

1. Wax coke-shaped bottles filled with colored sugar water.
2. Home milk delivery in glass bottles.
3. Party line telephones.
4. P. F. Flyers.
5. Butch wax.
6. Peashooters.
7. Howdy Doody.
8. 45 RPM Records.
9. Metal ice cube trays.
10. Blue flash bulbs.
11. Green stamps.
12. Roller skate keys.
13. The Fuller Brush man.
14. Reel-to-reel tape recorders.
15. The "twist", "the mashed potato" and the "funky chicken".
16. 15 cent McDonalds hamburgers and 10 cent fries.

C. Laughing helps, but its still hard to feel that you're long past prime.

1. Today, lets consider two "Goodtimers" who appeared shortly after Jesus was born, Simeon and Anna.
2. Their story is found in Luke 2:25-38.

I. HERE ARE A PAIR PAST THEIR PRIME

A. I wonder if they ever looked back to the good old days?

B. By the time we meet them in Luke 2, they are both graying saints.

1. Simeon had been promised he would not die until he had seen the Messiah-vv. 25-27. We don't know how old he was when this promise was made, but now its apparent Simeon is long past his prime-vv.28-32.
2. Anna was also well past her prime-vv. 36-38.

C. Its safe to say the best days of both Simeon and Anna were behind them.

II. GOD'S DEFINITION OF PRIME, HOWEVER, IS DIFFERENT THAN THE WORLD'S DEFINITION.

A. The world's definition is spelled out in physical terms—education, career, retirement, sickness, death.

B. God's definition, however, is spelled out in spiritual terms.

1. By God's standards, Simeon and Anna weren't past their prime.
2. From God's viewpoint they were in their "second" prime.

C. What was it about them that tells us they were in their second prime?

1. First, they were "faithful" people.

- a. Simeon is described this way-v 25.
- b. Anna too-v.37.
2. Second, they were “persevering” people.
 - a. Simeon persevered old age.
 - b. Anna not only persevered old age but also the loss of her husband after only 7 years.
3. Third, they were “spirit-led” people.
- D. At a time when the world probably considered them both as candidates for the rest home, God chose them for the important task of recognizing Jesus was the Messiah.

CONCLUSION

- A. Itzhak Perlman (story attached) said...

“You know, sometimes it is the artist’s task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left.”
- B. What have you got left?
- C. Whatever it is, long or short, lets dare to play it for all we’re worth.