



Advent: Anticipation

Luke 2

Read Luke 2:25-38 together:

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **27** And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, **28** he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, **29** "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; **30** for my eyes have seen your salvation **31** that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." **33** And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. **34** And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed **35** (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." **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.*

- ? What do you think about when you hear the word *anticipate*?
- ? What circumstances or experiences lend themselves to anticipation?

Context:

- ? What two people do Jesus and his parents encounter in the temple?
- ? How is Simeon described?
- ? How is Anna described?

Content:

Simeon expects that God is going to show up.

- ? What had been revealed to Simeon (v. 26)?
- ? How does Simeon come to the temple, according to verse 27?

Simeon expects that God is going to show off.

- ? Who does Simeon believe Jesus came to save (v. 30-32)?
- ? How is this belief different from what many of the Jewish people of that age expected?

Anticipation often gets mixed with assumption.

- ? What is the difference between *anticipation* and *assumption* (use a dictionary if necessary)?
- ? What did the Jewish people often assume about Jesus (see John 6:15)? Where do you think they got this idea?
- ? What impact did this assumption have on the ability of the Jewish people to recognize Jesus as their Messiah (see Mark 4:12)?
- ? What do Peter and the disciples assume about themselves in Mark 14:26-31?

So that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."

Mark 4:12

Anticipation requires discipline.

- ? How does verse 37 describe Anna's commitment to come to the temple?
- ? What does Anna do after she sees the Messiah (v. 38)?

Despite her difficult circumstances, Anna is an example of seeking God and sharing about God.

Application:

- ? When have you assumed something wrong about yourself?
- ? When have you assumed something wrong about God or his plan for your life?
- ? How did your assumptions impact your experience?
- ? Describe a specific circumstance in your life where God has shown up and shown off.
- ? How will you seek God this week, especially as you anticipate celebrating Jesus' coming?
- ? Who can you share that story of God's faithfulness with this week?