

The Christmas Story (4)
The Other Side of Christmas
Luke 2:25–40

Introduction: This week after Christmas can feel like the “dead zone”—low energy, low enthusiasm. But here’s the good news: Christmas doesn’t have to end. In scripture, we’re invited to live *on the other side of Christmas*, just like Anna, Simeon, and even Mary.

Today, I would like us to examine their stories so we can continue to enjoy Christmas all year long they these did. Let’s start with Anna’s story...

I. Anna’s Christmas Joy was to tell somebody!

Her name means “grace or favor” and her life reflects that grace in her unwavering devotion.

A. She is a truly remarkable figure in Luke’s gospel. Her story is brief, but it’s packed with inspiration and lessons for us today.

B. Anna is a woman of faithful endurance

1. **She had a life marked by loss** - She didn’t give in to bitterness or despair. *Instead, she devoted her life to God.*
2. **She didn’t let her circumstances define her;** she allowed her faith to guide her.

Anna reminds us that our trials don’t have to defeat us—they can draw us closer to God.

C. Anna was a devoted servant of God Luke 2:37

Her life was a living example of what it means to “seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33)

D. Anna was a witness to the Savior (Luke 2:38) *She like the shepherds, became one of the first evangelists, telling everyone about Jesus on the other side of Christmas.*

Like Anna, let’s live with faith, devotion, and joy, knowing that God’s promises are always worth the wait and sharing the good news. Like Anna. Make your yearlong Christmas joy be to tell somebody about the Savior!

II. Simeon’s Christmas peace was to rest in the promise of God:

Simeon is a man of faithful expectation...

1. Simeon’s identity and character

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Simeon was “righteous and devout” (Luke 2:25).

a. These two words say a lot about who he was.

1. Being righteous meant that Simeon lived in obedience to God’s law, treating others with fairness and integrity.
2. Being devout meant that he had a deep, reverent relationship with God—he wasn’t just going through the motions.
3. Simeon’s faith was genuine and passionate.

We should all want others to speak of character this way.

2. Simeon’s waiting on a promise. (Luke 2:25-26). Simeon’s story is unique because he was living with a divine promise.

Simeon, was a man who was led by the Spirit of God, taught by the Word of God, and obedient to the will of God, and therefore he was privileged to see the salvation of God.

3. Simeon’s encounter with Jesus (Luke 2:29-32)

A. This moment is one of the most beautiful scenes in scripture.

1. Simeon, holding the fulfillment of God’s promise in his arms, declares his life complete.
2. He recognizes that this child is not just for Israel but for the entire world—a Savior for all people.

Simeon’s story reminds us that Jesus is the answer to our deepest longings. Seek Him, and you will find the peace and fulfillment you’ve been searching for.

B. Simeon’s prophetic words (Luke 2:34-35)

Simeon was telling Mary that Jesus’ life would bring both hope and division.

1. He would be loved by some and rejected by others.
2. And for Mary, being the mother of the Messiah would come with incredible joy but also immense sorrow—especially as she witnessed His suffering and death.

Whether you’re in a season of waiting, seeking, or stepping into the unknown, take heart from Simeon’s example, knowing that no matter what happens—good or bad—you’re secure in God’s promise.

Stay faithful, listen to the Spirit, and keep your eyes fixed on Jesus that’s how we keep Christmas going all year long. *And always remember this: Simeon’s peace didn’t come from perfect circumstances. It came from seeing Jesus. God is with you just like He was with Simeon.*

III. Mary’s Christmas reality: the cost of redemption

A. She’s marveling at everything being said about her baby—until Simeon drops this bomb: “A sword will pierce your own soul too.”

B. But Mary reminds us that joy and pain can coexist.

1. She knew Jesus wasn’t just her baby—He was her Savior.
2. Maybe you are holding onto something today?

Let Mary’s story remind you that Jesus came to carry it all. The cross wasn’t the end—it was the beginning of our redemption.

3. Jesus gave us the greatest gift: redemption through His sacrifice

Friends, Jesus went to the cross for us. He didn’t just wrap us in His love—He gave His life so we could live.

Conclusion: Living on the other side of Christmas. The angels, the shepherds, and the manger are just the beginning of the Christmas story. The other side of Christmas is the cross, the empty tomb, and the promise of eternal life.

This week let’s take the spirit of Christmas into the new year all year long.