

Lesser Known Characters 01 Anna - Abiding

by Joseph Balsan

Joseph Balsan's sermon explores the life of Anna, a lesser-known biblical character, highlighting her faithfulness and dedication to God in the temple.

Duration: 55:33

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:25

Topics: "Faith And Love", "Abiding In Christ"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares a story about a young girl who had lost her mother and was feeling depressed and discouraged. However, when a death occurred in the area, an elder brother approached her and asked her to sing at the funeral. This simple act of kindness and inclusion brought her back to the faith and reminded her of the love of God. The speaker also shares a story about an atheist who was converted not by the preacher's words, but by a kind elderly lady who asked him if he loved Jesus. The message emphasizes the importance of speaking about Jesus and abiding in Him.

Transcript

Well it's nice to see you all out tonight and to hear that wonderful singing. My, it's just a little foretaste of heaven. What's it going to be like when all the redeemed are up there and we're going to sing? Well, I would like you to turn to Luke chapter 2 tonight.

Luke chapter 2 and verse 21. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. Verse 25.

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel. And the Holy Ghost was upon him, and it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms and blessed God and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him.

And Simeon blessed them and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel. And for a sign which shall be spoken against, yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the daughter of Aser, or Asher.

She was of a great age and had lived with her husband seven years from her virginity. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and faith of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. May the Lord bless to us the reading of his word.

We have read this incident that took place in the temple at the time of the offering of the sacrifice as the Jewish law required when a child was born in the nation of Israel. I read the whole, you might say, context of what I had before me this evening. What I had before me is especially three verses that are brought before us in this portion.

The thirty-sixth to the thirty-eighth verses concerning a woman by the name of Anna. This morning we were speaking about Elisha, and that's what we hope to take up in the morning studies. Lessons from the life of Elisha in days of ruin and declension.

But in the evenings I am hoping, the Lord enabling, to take up, if I might give it a title, Vignettes of Virtue in Seldom Spoken of New Testament Characters. Now that's quite a long title, isn't it? I'm sure that many of us have listened to messages on well-known characters in the Bible. Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah in the Old Testament, and even Elisha, of whom I am speaking in the mornings, Lord willing.

And we've all heard messages on Peter, Simon Peter, and Paul, and John. And no matter how often we hear messages concerning these individuals, we always receive something for our souls. Because their lives were brilliant lives for our Lord Jesus.

And sometimes we might think to ourselves, well these people are way beyond my realm. Moses, Abraham, David, Elijah, Paul, Peter, and John. Such great individuals who were in the public eye.

And yet, you know, when we come to the Bible, we find that the Bible speaks to us of people that were, you might say, common, ordinary people. And yet the very fact that they are mentioned in the word of God, these characters that we are going to look at, are people of whom very little is said. And yet every word seems to be weighed in the very sanctuary of God, and presents to us a vignette that suggests concerning this woman.

Well you know there's a 14th chapter of John, in which the Lord said, How important it is, in a threat of confusion, and in the character of Anna, to abide. There was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Fenua. Exhortations means grace.

And he said to that person, do you know grace? I deserve the right this evening. Have you received those riches? Do you know the joy of being saved by Jesus being the hand of grace? Happy in the assurance that you have. Happy in the assurance.

A man, very happy, was met by another person. And he said to him, why you look happy, what do you have to be happy about? He says, you look to me as though you are. He says, no.

He says, you are? He says, why you search me. He says, oh yes. He says, and you know she was a. And Fenua means the face of God.

Between a sunny day, my face is all. And if you belong to him, Lord Jesus, his face. I want you to notice the second thing.

The simplicity of her life. It says there was one Anna, a prophetess of the temple. But Serena really was.

And at 84, there is a difference of opinion among Bibles. It says she was a woman. A secret between himself.

She was a widow. For 84. And here I believe.

Believe that at 14. I'm just using those figures. The one upon whom she depended.

And at the age of 20 to be the end of everything. A very important lesson that everyone. In our Christian.

Death to that upon which we are dependent. You know someone has very well said. And yet.

And yet he has died. Here was the one. And here she is left.

Absolutely. Death. Nevertheless.

Our Christian needs to learn. It is death. You know it's very significant.

That we have. She's the daughter of Samuel. She was of a great affinity.

And you know where that word. That Jacob had to learn. Remember when Jacob.

And there. And then Jacob. Jacob was.

He went about his age of 86. To the age of 90. Abraham had.

To kill me. Please. And take Peter.

For thee. That thy faith fail not. Peter had to find out.

She was a widow. She came to that moment. In her life.

When death. Dependent of. Is more through his death.

We don't want to wait until we die. We want to. 84 years a widow.

Even the numbers of. Nation of 12. And 12 is.

Completely under the. Is he Lord. Is he Lord.

In all. Dependent. It says here.

She departed. Not from. She departed.

Knife. Is lived. Constantly.
In the. In darkness. He was.
Student. I think was Mr. Dr. Bangler. Whoever he was.
That he was a great. Greek. Student.
Who had listened to his. Teaching. Into his room.
And concealed himself. To thee for the night. And so say.
To sleep. He was a man. We can be in the.
Presence of God. She. But might I suggest to you.
That fasting. Suggests. Self-denial.
You know. Self-denial. Is something that's almost.
Lost sight of. Isn't it. Self-denial.
You and I. Ask ourselves. The question. And pray.
Two things. Grow together. She lived.
Is that. Beyond the reach. Of any one of us.
Is that. Out of the realm. Of anyone.
84 years. You might say. There's an age.
They set you as. Not with God. I think.
That the older we get. The richer. Can be our lives.
Can be our. Lives. In the 92nd Psalm.
It says. The righteous shall. As the palm tree.
It says. He shall grow. Like.
They shall be. In old age. She.
She continued. In the temple. Night.
And day. Life. That continues.
In its simplicity. Death. With Christ.
Living. In fellowship. Continuing.
In prayer. But then you notice. The third thing.

The significance. Of her service. Because.
You know. In that 15th chapter. Of John.
It says. Abide in me. And I. In you.
As the brain. Can he. Accept.
He abide. And we see. That this.
As a result. Of her. Me.
You notice. It says. Coming.
In that instant. Gave. Thanks.
That she was. In the right place. 17 times.
In the New Testament. At any. 89 times.
It's translated. Our. And that is.
One of the privileges. And the experience. Experiences.
Of abiding. And we see people. Who were.
In the right place. At the right time. In the 24th chapter.
We see a man. Seeking a bride. But she be the one.
Who was. Many a man. Many a woman.
Who's. They've met the wrong mate. Because they've been.
In the wrong place. Right time. He was.
In the right place. And Rebecca came out. And she fulfilled.
All. She was. In the right place.
Masters. In Genesis. Chapter 40.
Joseph was. In the right place. In prison.
My. That certainly couldn't be. The right place.
But you know. Herpetor. And Joseph was the man.
Who was there. And. Moses was.
When he was at the well. And. Zipporah came.
With her flocks. And she wanted. To water.

The. He was there to help. And it led.
To his. That little maid. Was in the right place.
Wasn't she. In Nabhan's house. Here was a man.
Who was sick. He was dying. Of leprosy.
And she says. Oh. If you are.
We preach the gospel. From. And she knew.
Who the one would be. That could heal. The right place.
Wasn't she. She was at the. The king.
At the right time. So she could be used. Of the lorry.
Down in Houston. A number of. Sunday morning.
To be with the lorry. There was a flurry. Of excitement.
And so we started. To go to the meeting. And all.
Where is the bread. A couple of weeks ago. We had some of the Christians.
Over to us. And his sister. Who was the wife.
Of one of. And she was telling. About him.
To the meeting. Was getting. And another death.
Occurred. In the area. That death.
The old. The elder brother. Came to her.
And he says. We need someone to. She says.
I can't. And what he brought. Before me.
So changed. My thinking. And so changed.
My way. You know. I think that sometimes.
We're losing. We're losing. Our priorities.
Today. Who prays. God.
She gave. Thanks. Thanksgiving.
Unto him. And he says. She speaks.
Of him. To all. Them.

That looked. For redemption. Now.
This word. Spake. Here.
Is not. A public. Utterance.
In other words. This was not. Public.
Preaching. In his Greek. Studies.
Of New Testament. Words. J. H. Vincent.
Says. That. It would be.
Utterly. Impossible. For this word.
Spake of him. To refer. To a public.
Utterance. Because. Of the fact.
Of what follows. To all. Them.
That looked. For redemption. In living in the day.
In a day. Today. Well.
Just recently. Within the past. Two.
Magazines. In which. A professor.
A feminine. Professor. Female.
Professor. Is. In New York.
Wrote. An article. Entitled.
I'm. Tired. Of being.
A second. Right. And.
She was bringing up. Their. Neglected.
A place. That is. Assigned.
To her. In many places. Where they seek.
To. That she quotes. Quite often.
And I notice. Secondly. That she.
Advocating. Some of his. Own ideas.
And biased. Views. Which are not.

Really. The teaching. Says.
I give my. Judgment. Is.
The. Inspiration. But this.
Dear sister. Is. Confused.
In her. Thinking. Because.
She says. And she bases. Everything.
On. Galatians. Three.
And twenty. Eight. Where it says.
In. Christ. Jesus.
There is. Neither. Male.
Nor. Female. Bond.
Or. Free. So.
So. For. In.
Christ. Jesus. Well.
I think. She's. Confused.
In her. Theology. Or.
She's. Confused. In her.
Biblical. Understanding. Because.
My friend. There is. A great.
Difference. Between. In.
Christ. And. The.
Church. And. Don't.
And. In. The.
Church. We're. Going.
To. Come. Into.
Confusion. And. As.
Far. As. And.

In. The. Epistle.
To. The. Church.
Read. Article. Not.
To. Pay. His.
Wife. What. She.
Was. Worth. He.
Couldn't. Afford. It.
And. I. Think. That's.
True. If. We.
Had. To. Pay.
Our. Wives. What.
They're. Really. Worth.
But. I'm. Thankful.
That. You. Speak.
Of. Him. To.
Speak. Of. Him.
To. All. Them.
That. Look. To.
Speak. Of. Him.
In. Him. You.
You. You. You.
You. You. You.
You. You. You.
You. You. You.
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