

Refrigerator Notes 28 December 2014
“Anything Good is Worth the Wait”
Luke 2 21-40

1. There is an old adage, which says, ‘anything good is worth waiting for or good things come to those who wait
2. It’s the story that seems to be dropped in the Gospel of Luke (no other gospel is this story found) that is in contrast to Mary’s character
3. Being the first to hear (Mary being told that Jesus will be the Messiah) doesn’t always mean being the first to understand (Simeon whom the Holy Spirit promised that he would not die, until he saw the Messiah)
4. Mary and Joseph takes the infant Jesus to Jerusalem to be dedicated in the Temple of the Lord –
5. There is Anna, a woman who prayed to see the Messiah, who also was a prophetess (*the only woman described as a prophetess in the NT*)
6. Both Simeon and Anna are both old – yet undaunted, knowing that they both will see the Messiah before they die
7. When Simeon takes the child in his arms (whom had dedicated thousands of children to the Lord) he immediately recognizes and praises God to the parents astonishment “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen the salvation, which was prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel”
8. When Anna approaches the Holy Family, she too recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, after eighty-four years of praying daily (but Mary does not understand what Anna is saying, Mary again is astonished)
9. Unlike Simeon, Anna is not just visiting the Temple for the day, she is there all the time, worshipping there with fasting and prayer (night and day)
10. The pairing of Simeon and Anna reflects Luke’s penchant for parallelism (just like Elizabeth and Zechariah, birth of John the Baptist or like Mary who went to visit Elizabeth)
11. The one common thing each of the characters have is obedience and patience (scripture tells us that Simeon and Anna waited for years for the coming of the Messiah)
12. God’s gift of salvation doesn’t mean we will never suffer troubles, hardships, sickness, rejection or death, but it does mean we have to learn to wait on the Lord! It happen to Jesus!
13. Those who rejected Christ then were condemned just as those who now try to take the Christ (or God) out of Christmas
14. Like Simeon and Anna, not only was patience needed, but trust and faith in the Lord
15. “But they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint”
16. I say wait on the Lord and all good things shall come to you!
17. How shall you wait on the second coming of Jesus?