

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.
Intergenerational Women's Ministry
St. Matthew AME Church
Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher
26 June 2021

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

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contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

"I think you have to have the courage of your convictions and be willing to speak them, both in preaching and in your interactions with people.

I have tried to make that a hallmark of my ministry, speaking the truth in love. And I think that people have come to expect that of me and have been accepting of it."

Bishop Barbara C. Harris

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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Anna
Pages 29-31

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AWARENESS

“Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.”
Luke 2:38 (NIV)

Name Meaning

- Favor or grace.
- Anna is the same with Hannah of the Old Testament.

Family Connection

- She was the daughter of Phenuel of the tribe of Asher – one of the so called “lost tribes”.

She Was A Prophetess

- Anna is among only a handful of women in the Bible bearing the title “prophetess.” The others are Miriam, the sister of Moses ([Exodus 15:20](#)); Deborah, the judge ([Judges 4:4](#)); Huldah, the wife of Shallum ([2 Chronicles 34:22](#)); Isaiah’s wife ([Isaiah 8:3](#)); and Philip’s four unmarried daughters ([Acts 21:9](#)). (www.gotquestions.com)
- A prophetess is a spokeswoman for God, a person who proclaims God’s word and therefore speaks for God.
- To prophesy simply means to proclaim a divine message, and Anna was one to whom it was given to know events before and after, and one through whom God spoke to others.
- Through her long, godly life her mind became saturated with Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming of the seed of the woman to bruise the serpent’s head.

She Was Of Great Age

- Anna was married for only 7 years and remained a widow for 84 years.
- She must have been over 100, if she had married at 13, when her failing eyes beheld the Savior she had longingly expected.
- What is the point of telling her age?

She Was A Widow

- Anna was desolate.
- She was a young, motherless wife, when God withdrew from her the earthly love she rejoiced in but she did not bury her hope in the grave.

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- In the place of what God took, He gave her more of Himself and she became devoted to Him who promised to be as a Husband to the widow.

She Departed Not From the Temple

- When death ravaged her own home Anna joined the band of holy women who devoted themselves to continual attendance at the “night and day services of the Temple.”
- She was no occasional attender but a constant, devoted worshiper (the “Amen” section).

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She Served God With Fasting and Praying

- Without doubt Anna was one of God's own elect (what does “elect” mean?).
- She would join with others openly, not quietly in a corner, in the presence of the congregation and pour out her soul audibly in the Temple.
- Anna not only prayed but she fasted, willing to sacrifice a meal in order to spend more time before God.
- Hers was a life of godly self-control.
- She had learned how to crucify the flesh in order to serve God more acceptably.

She Gave Thanks Likewise Unto the Lord

- She went to the Temple to pray for the coming of the Messiah and although He seemed to tarry she waited for Him believing He would come.
- Then one day the miracle happened, for as she entered the Temple she heard sounds of exultation and joy proceeding from the inner court.
- Simeon spoke these words, “Now, Lord, lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.” (Luke 2:25-32)
- Gazing at the Holy Child who was none other than who she long-looked for, the Messiah, Anna too was ready to depart in peace and be joined with her husband above.

She Spoke of Him to All

- Anna not only prayed and praised, but went out to proclaim the glad tidings to those who had shared her hope and faith.
- Anna the prophetess is among the first few to bring honor to the kingly babe born in a stable. Good news is meant to be shared, and Anna shares it with everyone who was anticipating the Messiah. The Redeemer had come, the prophecies were being fulfilled, and Anna was blessed to see it happen.

Reflections

- Who is Anna's story about?
- Who is Anna's story for?

ASK is on sabbatical July and August. See you on September 25!

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SKILL

Step Four: Plan

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

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Do you have a ministry goal? Is it a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) goal?
Does it (goal) demonstrate a foundation of prayer, of sensitivity to God's will, of being other-oriented?

Create 1 SMART Goal for the summer:

Example:

For at least 30 days during the months of July and August I will use my social media accounts to share good news about God's love for me through the sacrifice of His “only begotten Son”.

Reflection:

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Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on ministry goal setting and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

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