

WELCOME TO STRONGSVILLE: Muscular Living Takes Devotion

LUKE 2:36-38

Dr. Matt Shackelford ■ Central Church ■ January 10, 2021 ■ Social Media: #Strongsville

Anna Shows us that...

Muscular Living Takes Devotion:

1. Be Convicted of the Essential **Priorities** (36-38).
2. Be Cold to the Excessive of **Excuses** (36-37).
3. Be Calculated with Expressions of **Worship** (37-38)

Luke 2:36-38 (ESV)

“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.³⁸ 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.”

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. If someone is really devoted to the Lord, what does their life look like? Their habits? Their routine?
2. Devotion is a fire we have to keep stoking in every season of life. It's so easy to get lazy, stop reading, stop sharing the gospel, etc. How will you and I express the kind of devotion that Anna had in our daily lives?
3. Anna routinely fasted and prayed. While fasting is never commanded in the New Testament, it is healthy, nurturing to the soul, and expected. For Anna, fasting was a way to focus her heart in worship, prayer, and adoration to Jesus. How do you make time to devote yourself in worship to the Lord?
4. Is personal worship a necessity for your week? Why? Homework: This week plan out one hour to get alone with the Lord. Practice the A.C.T.S. prayer model (Adoration, Confession, Thanks, Supplication).
5. In this sermon Pastor Matt connected our lack of evangelism to our lack of worship. How would a vital worship life increase evangelism, unity, and peace at Central Church?

Quote for the Week. . . **by Alistair Begg**



“[We] must understand that Christianity is not served by mindlessness, but by the knowledge of God through the Word of God. Such knowledge engages our minds, stirs our hearts, and transforms our lives. This knowledge is personal. How is it fostered? By listening to what He says (the priority of preaching), by engaging Him in conversation (the emphasis on prayer), by spending time in His company (the need for a devotional life), and by being with others who know Him too (the need for gathered worship). This knowledge is progressive and dynamic, not static. At the end of our journey, we should still be exclaiming with Paul: “I want to know Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:2).”