

Series: Gospel Of Luke

Sunday, January 4.

1. FAITHFUL O POSITIONS DIVINE ENCOUNTER

(Luke 2:22-24; see also Leviticus 12; Exodus 31:2, Matthew 5:17; John 14:15)

- Mary and Joseph simply did what God's Word required. Their humble obedience positioned them for an extraordinary encounter.
- God still honors those who honor His Word. Simple, consistent faithfulness—prayer, Scripture, worship, generosity, service—creates space for divine appointments. Whether young or seasoned through years of faithfulness, obedience positions us to meet God. What one area of simple, consistent obedience could you commit to in 2026?

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2. PATIENT H LEADS TO PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

(Luke 2:25-35; see also Philippians 3:8; Matthew 6:19-21)

- Elderly Simeon had one wish before he died. This was not comfort or achievement, but simply Christ himself, and his salvation. The Holy Spirit promised he would see the Lord's Christ before death, so he kept showing up through every stage of life, sustained by one desire: to encounter Jesus. When the moment came and he held the baby in his arms, he said, "Now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation." He was ready to die because he'd met Christ. Nothing else mattered.
- What do we really hope for in 2026? The world is obsessed with bucket lists—places to see, things to achieve, legacies to leave. But Simeon wanted Christ Himself. Have we truly encountered Him? Everything else will feel empty if we've missed Jesus.

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Turn page over for #3

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3. PERSONAL ENCOUNTER COMPELS PUBLIC W

(Luke 2:36-38; see also Acts 4:20)

- Anna had devoted her life to worship—decades of fasting and prayer. After personally encountering Jesus, she couldn't keep quiet about Him, but rather, spoke to "all who were looking forward to redemption"—people who were ready to hear. An elderly and vulnerable widow became an evangelist.
- When we truly encounter Jesus, we become witnesses—at any age. Young or old, new believer or seasoned saint, some people in your life are waiting for someone to tell them about Him. Who in your life needs to hear your testimony this year? Will you commit this year to praying for one person's salvation, and watch for God to open the door?

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Application For This Week: Mary's obedience (young and faithful), Joseph's responsibility (mature and humble), Simeon's hope (elderly and patient), and Anna's devotion (elderly and devoted) all converged at God's perfect moment. As we begin 2026, God invites us into this same pattern: faithful obedience in ordinary things, patient hope in God's promises, and bold witness when we encounter Jesus. At every age and stage of life, we're never too young to be used by God and never too old to encounter Him afresh. When God's people show up faithfully—across all generations—God shows up powerfully.

Prayer: "Father, as we begin this new year, teach us the beauty of simple obedience at every season of life. Help us to be faithful in the small things, the ordinary things. Sustain our hope while we wait for Your promises, whether we're young or old. And when we encounter Jesus, give us boldness to tell others across all generations. May this be a year when our faithfulness—young and old together—converges with Your perfect timing. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Verses To Meditate On This Week: *"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations"*
– Luke 2:30-31

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