

It was Christmas morning that I looked at my email and saw one that automatically was delivered from Facebook. Apparently someone had posted on our neighborhood's page already that morning. The post said, "Not even 8 am and already lost our drone." I had to chuckle at the idea of a brand new, probably somewhat expensive drone, being pulled out of the package. "Let's take this to the backyard to fly it around a little." What happened next is anyone's guess. Either way they took to Facebook to ask if anyone found a drone in their backyard to let them know.

Facebook is your glimpse into other people's lives. You get to see how they spent their Christmas, what relatives they went to visit, maybe just what they ate, or what videos they found amusing. It's almost like you're seeing Christmas through their eyes. This morning we have Christmas through the eyes of two different individuals who were there. Well, 40 days after Jesus was born. But still when he was a helpless baby needing his parents. These two individuals were allowed to recognize him and share with us about him. Today in the gospel we...

See Christmas through their eyes
Simeon seeing a baby bringing salvation
Anna seeing a baby to be shared

Watching the weather all week long there was no guarantee this morning we would even have church. Tuesday the forecast called for six inches of snow, Wednesday it was for rain, Thursday it was ice and sleet, and even yesterday there were differing weather predictions from different stations. It just goes to show that you can't know what the future will hold, especially Oklahoma weather. Simeon's future was different. He knew very specifically one thing about his future. **"It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ."** Somehow, someway at some point in his life Simeon knew he would see exactly what God had planned to save the world.

By intervention of the same Holy Spirit, Simeon was in the temple that day when Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus came through. He was right there where he needed to be to intercept the Savior of the world. Except what was he looking for? We don't know that he knew it was a baby. In fact why would he look for a baby? Seeing with his own eyes the son of Mary he understood somehow. This was it. This was God's promised Savior. **"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people."** Salvation? From a baby? This baby was what the world was waiting for? It didn't seem possible that this baby would bring salvation for the whole world.

Part of seeing Facebook pictures, or looking through real photo albums like people used to keep, is that you get a skewed view into a person's life. The smiles that appear in so many pictures because of a vacation hotspot, a particularly fun restaurant experience, or a group of friends getting together can betray what really happens. You get to see their life through their eyes, but its life edited. You will not see the frustration and complaining they spit out as they headed to their vacation destination. You never see the fight they had with their spouse upon arriving late at the restaurant. And you won't be seeing the jealousy and envy among the friends right before the picture was snapped. Those moments we hide. We don't want people seeing our real life. We keep the sad moments, hate filled moments, fighting moments to ourselves. We deny or explain it away.

So how can we know the Christmas we're seeing through Simeon's eyes of the Christ child isn't edited? Don't look to Simeon. Don't check out his background or investigate his character. What you'd find is **"there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel."** He was waiting for God and his promises. He had the Holy Spirit upon him. But in reality, none of that is anything to rest your faith on. Your faith in the salvation promised to come through the baby must rest on something more secure. It must rest on the baby. It must rest on Christ. **"This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."** Where someone lands on the whole Christ issue tells you everything you need to know about their eternal destiny. Are they rising or falling? Are they speaking against Christ or is Christ revealing a heart saved by grace?

You have heard the Christmas gospel. You have been reminded of Christ Jesus and the reality of his entrance into this world. You have a Savior in Christ. He was there, as a baby in the temple, but really he was the dwelling of God with people. Jesus is God's guarantee that God dwells with you. He raises you up in faith. It is through Christ that you have an eternal destiny. Jesus is the consolation and deliverance that Simeon was waiting for. Jesus is the comfort and peace you need. He's the comfort and peace that comes from being forgiven of the fights, the jealousy, the envy, and the complaining. Peace that comes with God through the promised Savior. Forgiveness of your sins and removal of your guilt. Seeing Jesus through the eyes of Simeon is seeing your Savior come in the flesh. It's a snapshot of comfort and hope, Christ your salvation.

Anna was a fixture in the temple. **"She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying."** She was there likely because she didn't have anywhere else to be. For a long time she had been a widow. But God also gave her the ability to know the Scriptures. She was able to serve in the temple in some capacity as God used her for his purposes. Being there, perhaps she saw Simeon approach the family. Perhaps God revealed to her in some special way. However it happened she too approached the little family and spoke praises over the child. She was seeing her Savior. More important for Anna was then allowing others to see their Savior through her eyes as she told them about it.

If you aren't interested in other people's lives stay off Facebook. It's an endless stream of seeing into their lives. As Anna started to let people see into the life of the baby Jesus, I wonder if they thought she was crazy. These people were waiting for redemption, but maybe they wondered why she was blurting out about a baby. Did they question her about how she was so sure? Did they wave their arms and say it was impossible? Have you experienced the same? People who wonder why you talk so much about a baby at Christmas. People who think you're crazy for worshipping during the week some baby born centuries ago. Maybe people wonder how you can be so sure. They call you on it, ask you questions, and grill you hoping you'll stop talking about it. Or maybe they just deny that it could be possible. One baby, the Savior of the world? Maybe it was actually you who at one point or another thought those things. Maybe we fall into that same thought process of thinking it can't be a baby, it's can't be possible he could save us, or it just isn't what I need right now.

See Christmas through Anna's eyes and see the good news of a baby shared with you. God's grace for you. You worship Jesus. You praise Jesus. You thank Jesus. You do because you know what he did. It started with his birth. News of that birth has come to you because he's your Savior. The good news includes him being in the temple that day. He was already living a perfect life. **"When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him."** Jesus did everything required by the Law. He was a perfect Law keeper. He grew, listened to his parents, was educated, and learned about God. He perfectly accomplished things that you and I fail to do perfectly. Jesus was perfect in your place. He was perfect in everyone's place. That message needs to be shared.

Sharing something through your eyes is what Facebook is all about. It's what makes Facebook and all social media powerful tools. You can connect with so many people all at once. They see what you're doing, and get insight into what you're thinking, and what's important to you. That's a great avenue for sharing Jesus. But there are others. It's about letting people see Christmas through your eyes like we see it through Simeon and Anna's today. Speak with friends and family on occasions. Discuss things at work with coworkers. Sit down with friends after school. The opportunities are all around. You know Christmas and your Savior. You know the salvation he brings and the message to share. Allow the people in your life to see Christmas through your eyes.