



Living Lessons on Generosity vs. Stinginess ~ Lesson 3

Generosity lesson 3 Giving a gift which requires personal sacrifice.

"...Neither will I offer ... unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24

presented 5 November 2014 by Vanessa C. Justice

Covenant Bible Fellowship's Look to Creation! Series, Lesson #63, 4 of 5 on Generosity

Christian Worldview from Character Sketches, Vol. 2 IBLP, 1978, pages 352-363, & various websites

Reminders of that which went before...

Generosity~ An Overview Concept to remember as we go through these lessons.. Demonstrating the nature of God by wisely reinvesting the resources with which He has entrusted me & carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need. **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. God so loved...that he gave...** John 15:15; 3:16

Note: Another way to say it..... choosing to be His channel to bring others to Himself (*just like the last study...*)

Also talk re: how well this overview blends with Hospitality's overarching theme: *Cheerfully sharing food, shelter, & friendship, using what God has given us so we might demonstrate to others His love for them.*

Lesson 1 concept... Giving a gift that is cherished by the receiver & the giver. "A man who hath friends must show himself friendly; & there is a friend who sticketh closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

Lesson 2 concept... Withholding a gift that would hurt the one who might receive it. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation & a snare, & into many foolish & hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction & perdition" 1 Timothy 6:9

Slide 1: title slide, title above...

Slide 2: Who Am I?

In Nature

Rarely if ever actually set foot on land First species to be monitored by satellite

Live upwards to 35 years in harsh conditions (often averaging 20-25 years) in the wild

From Scripture

A prophetess

A widow

A model for New Testament widows?

Slide 3: The Emperor Penguin

aptenodytes ("featherless diver")

forsteri (for J.R. Forster, a naturalist & colleague of Captain Cook in the 18thC who was one of the first to describe penguins.)

Mom & Dad work together... apart...

They are seasonally monogamous.

Mom lays one egg & Dad immediately takes over & incubates the egg. Mom leaves to eat.

No nest, but huge colonies that stay in the cold.

Note: First read pg 354 the pg 356

[tps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfstYSUscBc&list=PLsb2d7Mx6rMkN7MsbVy4yFwDFR21e23jY&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfstYSUscBc&list=PLsb2d7Mx6rMkN7MsbVy4yFwDFR21e23jY&index=2) about 5 minutes... part of a BBC documentary



Slide 4: An Emperor's Life Cycle

* June=Antarctica's mid-winter breeding, egg is laid

* July-August=incubation & hatching.

* September-November=chick independence & bonding with parents; works on great weight gain; molting

* December=adult plumage; leaves parents

* Migration to the sea to feed, establish huge amount of fat, & start the cycle over...

Note: from <http://www.emperorpenguinfacts.com/Emperor-Penguin-Facts.html>

Interesting Facts about Emperor Penguins

Emperor penguins are the only animal to breed during the Antarctic winter

Emperor penguins are unusual in that the males are not territorial and huddle with other males to keep each other warm. Their mass also enables them to survive a possible wind chill temperature of -60C (-76F).

The longest recorded dive by an emperor penguin was for 22 minutes.

The deepest dive recorded by an emperor penguin is 565m (about 1854 feet or roughly 1/3 of a mile), making it the deepest dive recorded for any bird. Emperor chicks are virtually naked when they hatch.

When emperor penguins huddle they rotate their position in the closely packed group to share the warmth.

In some areas female penguins may need to travel 80km (about 50 miles) to reach the open ocean.

The Emperor penguin is the only bird which never touches land. It is either on Antarctic ice or in the water.

The Emperor penguin is the world's largest penguin at over 1m tall and, at 40kg (88#), weighs more than twice as much as its next-tallest cousin, the King penguin.



An Oscar-winning documentary named March of the Penguins was made in 2005. The documentary was narrated by Morgan Freeman.

Slide 5: Sea life!

You are shaped like a torpedo & are more agile in the water than on land, with wings more flippers than flight wings. Your feathers grow in as an almost solid covering filled with oil.

Predators include the leopard sea that eat chicks & adults; the skua bird that goes after chicks, & orcas which eat whatever they can catch.

Note: Giving up food and comfort to make sure the egg survives is the model of self-sacrifice.



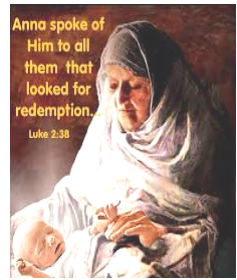
Slide 6: Context...

- *She lived the rise & fall of 6 kings, & then Rome conquered Israel in 63AD

- *Married 7 years, she devoted the rest of her life to the temple & Jehovah

- *God honored her devotion & personal sacrifice (childlessness) with deep insight & knowledge. She was a respected prophetess & announced the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah.

Note: Read pg 361 from Luke 2:21-36



Slide 7: Sacrifice through giving... Our needs will be met ~

Anna's dedication & deep prayer life led her to be a source of comfort, wisdom & aid to all who came to her *Paul may have been thinking of her when writing 1 Tim 5:3-5 & 1 Cor 7:40*

She was an example of patience & hope...

She was spiritually ready & looking for the coming King....

Note: Pg 363 She could have become a recluse, bitter and alone. She did not. By dedicating herself to others through her love of God, she touched uncounted lives, was honored by those who knew of her, was respected by other men and probably women of God, was used of God to provide an example of strength, patience, love, hope, and joyfulness in a situation others might find hard, lonely, and "unfair"... Why name her father? Why note her tribal connections? She is given more detail than was Simeon, but both were given the role of being the Temple's heralds of the Lord...

A pastor's conclusion from a much longer account.... Interesting information on Anna of Asher; see http://www.godward.org/archives/special%20articles/anna_the_prophetess.htm for the entire monograph on Anna, her family, God's promises to her people, and her importance in being a part of the witness to the Messiah

Anna the Prophetess And the Hope of All Israel by Doug Ward **The Annotated Anna**

We can now understand more fully what Luke intended to communicate in his brief passage about Anna in Luke 2:36-38. Phanuel and Anna came from a family of the tribe of Asher that had lived in the eastern diaspora in Media. Like other exiles from the northern tribes, they treasured the story of Tobit. Phanuel told this story often to his daughter, whom he named after Tobit's wife. Like Tobit, he longed for the time when the exiles in Media would be able to return home to Israel, so he was overjoyed when he was able to actually move to Jerusalem. He passed along to Anna his love for Jerusalem, the *Torah*, and the Temple. In her widowhood, Anna expressed this love in her continual worship at the Temple complex.

When Anna met Joseph and Mary and God revealed to her that their baby was the promised Messiah, she rejoiced in the wonderful news. God had shined his face upon Israel, as her father's name expressed. He was fulfilling his promises and would surely bring his people back to the land of Israel.

Bauckham ([1], p. 185) observes that the accounts of Simeon and Anna in Luke 2 complement each other nicely. Simeon, a member of the House of Judah, highlights Israel's role as a light to the nations (2:30-32). Through the work of the Messiah, salvation would go out from Jerusalem to all the world. Anna, a member of the House of Israel, represents Israel in exile, scattered among the nations. Through the work of the Messiah, Israel one day would come back to Jerusalem. With his accounts of Simeon and Anna, Luke beautifully communicates the hopes of all Israel.

Slide 8: We need to all be Anna's



- *Be the one others come to...

- *Set aside time of prayer, fasting, & meditation, studying to know Him

- *Give up some personal comfort for others, listening for His voice

- *Look to the Author & Finisher of our faith

- *Live Phil 3:20 ~ expect His arrival!

- *Give the gift of eternity by being like Anna & "speak to all who look for redemption"!

Spend yourself for others and for Him....

...Neither will I offer ... unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

2 Samuel 24:24