

**# 4 SOME PERSONAL APPLICATIONS FROM  
THE CHRISTMAS STORY  
(Lk 2:21-38; Matt. 2:1-23)**

**Notice...**

**I. THE KIND OF TESTIMONY WHICH IS NEEDFUL TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS (Lk 2:25,37)**

- A. To be an effective witness requires a righteous life (25)

This is the kind of testimony that Simeon had. He didn't live after the flesh. The Scriptures say he was led by the Holy Spirit and the Spirit had revealed precious things to him concerning Christ.

Oftentimes the witness of some professing Christians has little or no effect upon others because their lives are carnal and not spiritual. Think of Lot's witness!

- B. To be an effective witness requires a faithful life (37)

This is what characterized Anna's life. For some seventy-seven years she had served the Lord at the temple. As a result she was a powerful witness to others about Christ.

**II. THE BLESSINGS FROM FOLLOWING WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS (Matt. 2:5,6,11)**

- A. Following the Word of God is the way to find the Lord (5-9).

The Lord Jesus declared this principle to the unbelieving Pharisees (Jn. 5:39). We are told also that the Lord Jesus was revealed to the Emmaus disciples through the Scriptures (Lk 24:27).

So it is in our day. To find the Lord we must follow what the Scriptures say regarding Him. And following the Scriptures brings us close to Him.

- B. Following the Word of God is the way to a life of joy and peace.

We find this principle revealed to His disciples by the Lord Jesus (Jn. 13:17). The Psalmist declared the same thing (Psa. 119:165).

**III. THE PROPER RESPONSE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND THE LORD (Matt. 2:11)**

- A. Those who find the Lord should worship the Lord (11).

When the wise men found the Lord they "fell down and worshipped Him."

This is what ought to characterize the life of a Christian. A Christian should be in God's house when it's time to worship and serve the Lord (Heb. 10:25).

B. Those who find the Lord should give Him some gifts that really mean something (11)

What the wise men gave to the Lord meant something. First of all, their gifts represented the best they had to offer. Then their gifts were symbolical of Christ's Kingship, His pure life, and His sacrificial death.

Oftentimes those who profess to know the Lord offer Him the left-overs of their lives. And what they give doesn't really mean much because it involves no sacrifice or devotion.

What Mary of Bethany gave to the Lord meant something (Mk 14:3-9). So did the widows gift of two mites (Mk 12:41-44).

The most meaningful gifts are those which Savor of sacrifice and devotion. Note the gifts of the churches of Macedonia (II Cor. 8:1-4).