

Luke 2:22–38

Be the Second

We live in a world that celebrates “Being the First.” We remember names of people who have been First. The first to the Moon, the most Home Runs hit, and other events in a variety of fields. Yet, being first is not always simple. As one man writes, being first is “a paradox wrapped in pride and pressure, an honor and a challenge.”¹

Rarely do we celebrate “being the second.” While being first is important—after all, someone has to be first—it isn’t the only thing. Some of us need to be the second, in fact, some of us want to be the second. “Being the Second” is not a matter of losing, it is actually incredibly important as we will see today.

Read Passage

A. When is the Time of Purification? (Luke 2:22)

1. Leviticus 12:2–4

A. For a son: Circumcision, then 33 days, 40 days total

2. What does the Purification include?

A. A burnt/whole offering — total dedication to God (Lev 1:1-17)

B. A sin offering – to atone for unintentional sins (Lev 5:1-13)

B. What do we know of Anna? (Luke 2:36–38)

1. A Prophetess

A. Miriam (Exod 15:20)

¹ Biagio Maffettone, *The First to Rise*, “The Psychology of Being ‘The First’”
Stan Harstine, Ph.D.

- B. Deborah (Judges 4:4)
- C. Huldah (2 Kgs 22:14)
- D. Isaiah's wife (Is 8:3)

2. Father's Name

- A. Phanuel - Face of God

3. Tribal Association

- A. Asher - Son of Leah's Maid "Happy" (Gen 30:13)
- B. Northwest corner of the territory on the Mediterranean Coast
- C. Some came to worship during the time of Hezekiah (2 Chron 30:11)

4. Her Age

- A. 84 years, mostly as a widow

5. Her Worship Practices

- A. Daily worship in a corporate setting
- B. Individual worship
- C. Dedicated to experiencing the presence of God

C. What is the importance of her testimony (Luke 2:38)

1. How important is the witness of a single person?

2. What is the importance of two or three witnesses? (11:44-45)

- A. Deuteronomy 17:6 - those who do evil in the midst may be executed
- B. See also Numbers 35:30, Deut 19:15, Is 8:2,

3. Is Simeon's claim valid without a second witness?

Being the Second Witness is Incredibly Important to God's work and purposes.

- 1. "Being the Second" confirms God's Work in this world. Be the Second Witness to others that God is at work in our world today!**
- 2. "Being the Second" illustrates the Truth of God's actions. Be the Second Witness to help others see God's truth by praising God's work in our world today!**
- 3. "Being the Second" is a role even 84 year old widows can play. God calls all of his people, regardless of age, to worship him publicly.**
- 4. Not everyone can be the first to share God's Power with Others. We can all be the Second. So "Be The Second" today, this week, this month, this year.**