

Message #11 | “The Favour of God Was Upon Him” | Luke 2:36-40
Todd Dugard | January 12, 2014

WARMING UP

1. What (or who) receives your undivided, special attention in life? How so? If God were prepared to give you his undivided, special attention right now, would that seem like a good thing or a bad thing to you? Why?

DIGGING IN

2. *If you don't want God's favour . . . focus intently on your difficult circumstances (2:36-37a).* What circumstances could have defined Anna's life? How do you think she overcame this situation in a positive way? What difficult circumstances often derail people today? How about you? How can Philippians 4:11-13 and Hebrews 13:5-6 help?
3. *If you don't want God's favour . . . avoid cultivating intimacy with God (2:37b).* In what ways does a serious commitment to prayer and fasting (and other spiritual disciplines) deepen our relationship with the Lord? How would you rate your level of intimacy with him these days? What step could you take to improve this?
4. *If you don't want God's favour . . . remain ungrateful despite evident blessing (2:38a).* How is this point related to the previous two points? What are some of the reasons why people lack gratitude? Look up the following passages for some insights on thankfulness: Psalm 79:13; 107:1; Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
5. *If you don't want God's favour . . . refuse any opportunity to serve or speak for God (2:38b).* Pastor Todd said, “Though the Bible teaches male leadership as the pattern, God has somewhat regularly delighted in breaking that pattern when necessary to accomplish his eternal purposes.” Chew on this statement for a bit. What are the implications for you individually and for our church collectively?
6. *If you don't want God's favour . . . deny the fact that all good things flow from Jesus Christ (2:39-40).* How exactly is Jesus Christ the conduit for God's favour in our lives? What do we forfeit if we deny that all good things flow from him?

BREAKING OUT

7. Pray that you would live in such a way that God's favour, his special attention, would rest upon you in abundant measure.

