

FAITH

Sermon Notes/Study Guide for Dec. 27, 2020

Today we conclude our advent series by looking at the subject of faith as it relates to the birth of Jesus. We will look at faith through the eyes of the men and women involved in the birth narrative.

What is faith? Faith is what connects us to God-for by grace we are saved through faith. Faith trusts that what God has said is true and that God will do what He promised to do. Today we will look at three aspects of faith and think through how each of these humble people demonstrated faith.

1. Faith _____ What God will do.

Faith looks forward to what God promises that He will do. The people in the birth story were looking for a Messiah that God had promised to send.

2. Faith _____ Whatever God says to do.

Zachariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, the shepherds, the wise men, Anna, and Simeon. All responded in obedience.

3. Faith is _____ by God and yields wonderful results.

There is great blessing when we believe God and act upon what He wants us to do.

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Discussion/Study Guide for Faith.

The birth story is found in Matthew 1:18 to the end of chapter 2. It is also found in Luke 1 to Luke 2:40

1. How does Zachariah respond when he is told by the angel Gabriel that he and Elizabeth were going to have a son who would pave the way for the coming of the Messiah? How did he respond when his son John was born? see Luke 1:5-24 and Luke 1:67-79
2. How did Elizabeth respond in Luke 1:25? How did she demonstrate faith when she first saw Mary? see Luke 1: 39-45
3. How did Mary respond when she was told by the angel Gabriel that she was about to become the mother of the Messiah? see Luke 1:26-38
4. How did she respond when Elizabeth encouraged her? see Luke 1:46-55
5. How did Joseph respond when he learned that Mary was pregnant before they were married? see Matthew 1:18-25. How did he respond when God appeared to him in a dream and told him to leave immediately for Egypt? see Matthew 2:13-15
6. How did the shepherds respond when they were told by the angelic host that the Savior had been born in Bethlehem? What did they do after they saw the baby Jesus? see Luke 2:8-18
7. What did Simeon do when the Holy Spirit led him to the temple to see Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus? see Luke 2:22-32.
8. Anna was an old woman who spent her time in the Temple fasting and praying, looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. What did she do when she saw the Christ child? see Luke 2: 36-38
9. How did the wise men respond when they saw this unusual star in the east? What did they do when they saw Jesus? What did they do when God appeared to them in a dream? see Mathew 2:1-13

All these godly people responded in faith and did what God asked them to do and were blessed.

What do you believe that God wants you to do this coming year, something that will advance His kingdom?

What will you need to do that God will bless to bear fruit?