

Tuesday, November 29

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

1. What prayer of Zechariah's is the angel referring to in verse 13?
 - a. Was it an immediate silent prayer that Zechariah offered out of fear that he not be killed?
 - b. Or was it the prayer represented in the burning of the incense?
 - c. Or was it a prayer Zechariah had prayed some time prior that Elizabeth would bear him a son?
2. If we conclude that it makes most sense for it to be a prayer for a son (which it does), do you think this was a recent prayer (maybe even given while he was serving in the holy place that day) or a prayer he had prayed long ago?
 - a. If it was a recent prayer, what would that tell us about Zechariah?
 - b. If it was a prayer, or series of prayers, offered long ago, what would that tell us about both prayer and God's response to it?
3. Has God ever answered one of your prayers long after you had prayed it?
4. Has God ever answered one of your prayers which you just never stopped praying even though it seemed impossible?
5. How could/should this account affect the way we pray?

KTFK: God will / living, and / both your / give your / Share your / lead you / prayers and / things that / heart in / heart and / to thanksgiving! / do amazing

Song: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Prayer: "LORD God, help me to pray to you in the ways that Zechariah did. Help me to pray regarding the longings of my heart. Help me to pray even as I seek to serve you with my life. Help me to pray even though situations seem impossible. Help me to pray! Amen."

Wednesday, November 30

¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

1. In what way does God answer Zechariah's prayer?
2. Have you ever had a prayer answered in ways far greater than you had intended?
3. Why do you think God does that?
4. Does God rejoice in giving his children far beyond what they ask?
5. Why is this something we should remember?
6. Read Malachi 4:5-6.

a. Do you think Zechariah was familiar with this passage?

b. What does this reveal about his son?

7. How does God's providing for the longing of Zechariah's heart connect with the furtherance of God's kingdom and redemptive work?
8. How often do you think it works this way, that when God gives us the longings of our hearts he does it in such a way that achieves his purposes?
9. Do you think Zechariah was OK with that?
10. Are you?

KTFK: heart, what / will surely / provides the / a part. / your faithful / in his / he provides / When God / kingdom play / longings of

Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Prayer: "Lord, how beautiful it is that you so perfectly weave the longings of our hearts into the fulfillment of your kingdom purposes. Forgive me for ever seeing your provisions for my longings as things reserved only for me or my own enjoyment. Indeed, help me to see everything that you provide as being provided for some tangible aspect of your kingdom coming more fully in and through me. Amen."

Thursday, December 1

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

1. What part of Gabriel's message does Zechariah have a hard time believing?
2. Does this indicate that the prayer of Zechariah which Gabriel had referenced earlier was an old prayer or a more recent one?
3. How would you describe Gabriel's response?
 - a. Does this kind of response surprise you?
4. Why do you think Zechariah's punishment for his unbelief was not being able to speak?
 - a. In what way did this keep things just between Zechariah and God?
 - b. Why was this a good thing considering the situation?
5. What do we see evidenced in that God was still going to do as he had said even though Zechariah had not believed?

KTFK: our doubts / doubts with / are not / God would / deceiving. / us mute / will be / rather have / when we / others when / believing, than / share our

Song: "Lord, Speak to Me that I Might Speak"

Prayer: "Forgive me, O Lord, for any ways in which my lack of belief gives doubts to others about the certainty of your promises. Give me lips that declare an absolute confidence in each and every one of your promises that I might never cause people to doubt you, but rather to give themselves fully for you. Amen."

Friday, December 2

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

1. What reason does Elizabeth give for why God had caused her to conceive?
2. Is this the same reason that Gabriel gave to Zechariah for what God is doing?
3. Does this mean Elizabeth is personalizing this too much, or do you think both of these are reasons for what God is doing?
4. What do we find out here that had been going on through the years while Elizabeth was barren?
5. What kind of people were Zechariah and Elizabeth again (based on verse 6)?
6. Do you think people assumed there must be some sin there that was keeping her from conceiving?
7. Do people still do this – assume that the reason someone (even someone righteous) is not receiving something good from God is because they have sinned or have not pleased God somehow?
8. What does this do to their burden?

KTFK: he chooses, / fabric where / the things / them all / just one / more than / God has / no child / and weaves / loses. / reason for / into a

Song: "God Move in a Mysterious Way"

Prayer: "Lord, I thank you that as you go about your grand work you do not neglect the needs and desires of your children along the way. I thank you that nothing escapes your attention and that I can rest knowing I will never be left without that which is good and right for me to receive from your hand. You are an amazing, glorious, and loving God. Amen."

Saturday, December 3

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Nov 28 - When longings / of your / deepest heart / the Lord / does not / supply, be / careful not / to think / that he / in anger / has passed / by.
Nov 29 - Share your / heart and / give your / heart in / both your / prayers and / living, and / God will / do amazing / things that / lead you / to thanksgiving!
Nov 30 - When God / provides the / longings of / your faithful / heart, what / he provides / will surely / in his / kingdom play / a part.
Dec 1 - God would / rather have / us mute / when we / are not / believing, than / share our / doubts with / others when / our doubts / will be / deceiving.
Dec 2 - God has / more than / just one / reason for / the things / he chooses, / and weaves / them all / into a / fabric where / no child / loses.

Family Worship 2022 November 28 - December 3 Luke 1:5-25 Week Two Of Advent

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily
KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

Monday, November 28

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

1. As Luke begins his account of the life and ministry of Jesus, he includes many specifics. How many can you identify here?
2. Why do you think Luke includes so many of these specific details?
 - a. How does it help him achieve the goal he described in verses 3-4?
3. What kind of people were Zechariah and Elizabeth?
4. Does this fact have anything to do with God choosing to use them and their home for the coming and raising of John the Baptist?
5. Given that Zechariah and Elizabeth were so righteous before God, do you think they wondered why God had not allowed them to have children?
6. Do you find it noteworthy that they continued to follow him faithfully regardless?
7. Have you ever wondered why God had not blessed you with something your heart desired even though you were truly seeking to follow him in all you do?
8. What does this example remind us about such situations that we might face?

KTFK: of your / in anger / careful not / does not / by. / deepest heart / that he / the Lord / supply, be / When longings / to think / has passed

Song: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Prayer: "LORD God, forgive me for thinking so many things! Forgive me for thinking that I deserve any particular earthly blessings from you. Forgive me for ever thinking that if you have not provided something my heart desired, then it must mean you are angry with me. Forgive me for ever wandering from your ways because you hadn't given me something I longed for. Forgive me for ever thinking that my situation in life has been overlooked by you or that you don't care. Help me to continue to trust and serve and obey the way Zechariah and Elizabeth did. Thank you for their example. Amen."