



"God is Always at Work"

Luke 1:5-25

December 4, 2022

THE BIG IDEA: In all things, the big sweeping moments of history and the smallest of details of our lives, God is **at work**. Nothing escapes His attention. Especially for those who know and seek Him, He is working all things "together for **good**, for those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Luke 1:5-25 (ESV)

1 ⁵In 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*. ⁶And they were both *righteous* before God, *walking blamelessly* in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they *had no child*, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were *advanced in years*.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And *the whole multitude of the people were praying* outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an *angel of the Lord* standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But 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*. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for 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. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and 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."

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For *I am an old man*, and *my wife is advanced in years*." ¹⁹And 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. ²⁰And 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." ²¹And *the people* were *waiting* for Zechariah, and they were *wondering* at his delay in the temple. ²²And 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. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After 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."

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HOW GOD WORKS:

1. There is one big **story** of God and His redemptive work. Always look for how the Lord is **connecting** the pieces of life for the purposes He is accomplishing.
2. The Lord works powerfully in people who know and seek Him, but that doesn't mean you have **disappointments** in your life.
3. Sometimes the Lord chooses to act in miraculous ways, but we should always be ready to **humbly accept** His choices for our lives.
4. Only John could serve the unique purposes he did in preparing us for the coming of Jesus, but we can all learn from him what God will do with people who live **holy** lives, are filled and led by the **Holy Spirit**, and whose joy is in **pointing** people to the Savior!
5. You are never too **old** to serve the Lord!
6. People who see God at work sing and live to **His Glory** for who He is and what He has, is, and will do.
⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people

"In the Old Testament, Jesus is predicted; in the gospels, Jesus is revealed; in the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus is preached; in the Epistles, Jesus is explained;
and in the Book of Revelation, Jesus is expected."

- Alec Motyer