

A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS

Sermon Outline — Luke 1:5-25

Sermon Series: Christmas 2022

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What Can We Learn From the Christmas Story of Zechariah & Elizabeth?

1. God wants to use _____ godly people who feel _____ by Him (Luke 1:5-7, NLT).

What We Know About King Herod¹

- a. By this time, he was 70-years-old and he was a wicked and paranoid king.
 - b. He had become insanely jealous of his power and his throne. He had already had secretly ordered the murder of the Jewish high priest because this Jewish high priest was more popular than he was with the people. 24 months before he died, he had his 2 oldest sons murdered because he was insanely jealous over the obvious fact that they would one day sit on the throne. In fact, just a week before his death, he had his next son in line for the throne killed.
 - c. In spite of this, King Herod was loved by many people, especially the Roman Emperor. The Roman emperor convinced the Roman Senate to grant Herod the title of “King of the Jews.”
- † *Matthew 2:1-2*, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ²Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him” (NASB).
- † *Matthew 2:16*, “King Herod was infuriated. So, he sent soldiers with orders to slaughter every baby boy two years old and younger in Bethlehem and throughout the surrounding countryside, based on the time frame he was given from interrogating the wise men” (TPT).

Ways Zechariah and Elizabeth Might Have Felt Forgotten By God

- a. Zechariah and Elizabeth are _____ religious people (Luke 1:5-6, ESV).
 - b. Zechariah and Elizabeth are _____ religious people (Luke 1:6, ESV).
 - “Righteous” is the Greek New Testament word [δίκαιος; dikaios] and it means “one who obeys consistently all of God’s laws.”
 - “Blamelessly” is the Greek New Testament word [ἄμemptος; amemptos] and it means “not able to find fault; not able to blame for wrong; content, satisfied.”
 - c. Zechariah and Elizabeth are _____ religious people (Luke 1:7a, NLT).
 - The Jewish Rabbis said that seven people were excommunicated from God and here’s how the list began, “A Jew who has no wife, or a Jew who has a wife but has no child.” Childlessness was a valid ground for divorce. Having no children carried a moral stigma as well. Jews back then believed righteous people were blessed by God with children and unrighteous people were made barren by God. And this carried a religious and relational stigma also. He is a priest and both of them are from the Aaronic priestly line. Of all people whose quiver should be full, it should be theirs. Therefore, they would have been shunned, ignored, received smug looks, and considered a reproach from others.”²
 - d. Zechariah and Elizabeth are _____ religious people (Luke 1:7b, NLT).
 - The words translated as “very old” is the Greek New Testament word [προβαίνω; probainō] and it “refers to a woman who is post-menopausal.”
 - Serving God is not about _____ or _____, it is about _____. Being blessed by God is not about _____; it is about _____. God does not put you “behind the _____,” He gives you the _____.
2. God sometimes uses messengers to bring _____ to _____ godly people to use them to _____ (Luke 1:8-10, NLT; Luke 1:11-12, ESV).

¹ Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, Walter A. Elwell, Ed., Vol. 6, pp. 964-968.

² William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible Series*, “The Gospel of Luke,” p. 10.

- We know there were _____ divisions of priests (1 Chr. 24:7–18) who were subdivided into four to nine “houses,” each serving a daily rotation during their particular week of service. On average, each “house” may have consisted of _____ priests—far too many to serve in the confines of the inner temple. To determine which priests would fulfill each role, they _____.³

Zechariah's Reaction To the Archangel Gabriel

- Zechariah's first reaction was to be _____.
 - The Greek New Testament word translated as “troubled” is [ἐταράχθη, etarachthe]. It means “to confound the mind, to throw into disorder, and to stir up feelings of confusion. This is the same reaction people in terrible accidents have. They will get out of their car and walk totally confused not knowing what has happened, who they are, or where they are.”
- Zechariah's second reaction was _____ (Luke 1:13-17, NLT).
 - † *Daniel 8:17a-18, “As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground . . . ¹⁸ While he was speaking, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. But Gabriel roused me with a touch and helped me to my feet” (NLT).*
 - New Testament scholar Kent Hughes puts it this way: “Daniel fainted as the archangel Gabriel delivered a message spoke to him from God _____ messianic times. This time, Gabriel, the angel, delivers a message to Zechariah about the _____ of messianic times”.⁴
- Zechariah's third reaction was _____ (Luke 1:18-21).
 - The Greek New Testament word that is translated as “good news” in Luke 1:19 is [εὐαγγελίζω; euangelizō]. This is the New Testament word for “_____.”
 - † *Luke 1:20, “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” (ESV).*
 - † *Luke 1:21, “Meanwhile, the crowds outside kept expecting him to come out. They were amazed over Zechariah's delay, wondering what could have happened inside the sanctuary” (TPT).*

Why The Delay?

- Luke 1:21 says that Zechariah was delayed in coming out.
 - The Greek New Testament word translated as “delay” is [χρονίζω; chronizō] and it means “to stay too long in terms of _____.”
 - Realizing that he would not be able to speak the _____ in Numbers 6:24-26 when he left the area of the Altar of the Burnt Offering to go before the people waiting outside, he intentionally delayed himself. Read the Aaronic Blessing in *Numbers 6:24-26, “May the Lord bless you and protect you. ²⁵May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. ²⁶May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace” (NLT).* This is very popular blessing even today. He delays coming out when he was supposed to because he is trying to figure out what to do, how to tell the people and still fulfill his once in a life time priestly duties.
 - Zechariah realized that he was both _____ and _____ (Luke 1:22-23, 62, TPT).
 - † *Luke 1:22-23, 62, ““When he finally did come out, he tried to talk, but he couldn't speak a word, and they realized from his gestures that he had seen a vision while in the Holy Place. ²³He remained mute as he finished his days of priestly ministry in the temple and then went back to his own home . . . ⁶²So they gestured to the baby's father (Zechariah) to ask what to name the child . . . (TPT).*
- God _____ to His people even when we _____ Him (Luke 1:24-25, TPT).
 - God makes us _____ for not believing the Gospel and _____ it with others.
 - † *Matthew 10:32-33, Jesus said, “If you openly and publicly acknowledge Me, I will freely and openly acknowledge you before My heavenly Father. ³³But if you publicly and/or privately deny that you know Me, you do not mention Me, I will also deny you before My heavenly Father” (PAR).*

³ Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich, eds., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. 3, p. 262.

⁴ R. Kent Hughes, *Luke*, Volume One, p. 22.