

Series:

Sermon Notes & Community Group Discussion

The Songs of Christmas

Sunday, December 14, 2014

The Songs of Christmas: Zechariah's Song
Preaching: Brady Traywick

Luke 1:67-80

Behind the Music: (Luke 1:5-25)

Inside the Music: (Luke 1:67-80)

We are to be ruled by the Word of God.

We are to reveal the Son of God.

We are to retell the Story of Salvation.

We are to anticipate His Return.

Our Appropriate Response:

Worship

Embrace & Trust

Community Group Questions

1. What kind of man was Zechariah? How would you characterize his spiritual life before the angel appeared to him?
2. In view of all that, why did he doubt Gabriel's message? How could he doubt? Why do we? Do you think this was a temporary lapse or was it more permanent?
3. Why did God make the priest unable to speak until John was born? How do God's holiness and compassion work together in his discipline of his children?
4. What promises of God do you have a hard time believing? Look up the following verses and ask yourself, "Do I fully believe this promise?" If not, identify what is holding you back (Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 John 5:11-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; John 16:24; Romans 8:38-39). How do you think the story would have been different had Zechariah verbalized the words found in Mark 9:24? What could Zechariah have learned from Abraham's example in Romans 4:19?
5. Zechariah had nine months to ponder his lack of faith and to use this time of silence to grow in his knowledge of God. What evidence from this chapter do you see that indicates that he had not become bitter during this time? In what ways do you think he grew during this time of silence? (See Luke 1:68-79). Psalm 46:10 tells us to be still and know that He is God. How can you benefit from times of silence in your life? What can you do to schedule some solitude this week? Here's an idea. Why not take a night and turn off your TV? If you don't take time for solitude and silence, your faith will remain superficial.
6. Describe a time when you received an answer to a prayer you had been praying for a long time. Were you surprised when the answer came? If so, should you have been? If you can't think of a time, what are you praying about right now?
7. Go on a "God Hunt" today and ask the Lord to show you where He is at work. Determine to slow down so that you can see Him and throughout the day look for ways to be used by Him. Be careful...you just may be surprised and come across an angel unawares (see Hebrews 13:2).



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