

Fear Not, Just Believe

Luke 1:5-15

- Selaphobic
- Cyssanophobia
- Syngenesophobia
- Meleagrisphobia
- Doronophobia
- Ecclesiophobia
- Christougenniatikophobia



Zechariah and Elizabeth

- Historically the events in Luke 1 occurred at the end of four hundred years of silence in the story of Israel.
- Elizabeth was actually Mary's relative.
- Whatever relationship they shared was on their mother's side of the family tree.
- Zechariah was a priest, and Elizabeth was descended from the priestly line of Aaron.
- Elizabeth did not have a child because she and Zechariah couldn't have children.
- Gabriel told Zechariah that his prayers would be answered.

Prayer Delayed Is Not Prayer Denied

- God not only heard Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayers, but God answered them.
- Zechariah and his bride may have questioned whether God heard their prayers, but their son was born at just the right time.
- Each of us has been placed here to make a difference.
- The world would be a different place if you and I were not here.
- John's life had a purpose, but that purpose had to be served at a specific time.
- Some prayers for healing are only answered in heaven.
- We do not grieve because our loved ones are in heaven with God, we grieve because they are not here with us.

Answered Prayer May Have Multiple Ramifications

- The ramifications of Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayers were spelled out:
 - You are to name him John.
 - You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.
 - He will be great in the eyes of the Lord.
 - He will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God.
- Zechariah and Elizabeth's long-awaited child would be a man of God, who would make a difference.
- It would be thirty years before those things happened.

Answered Prayer May Have Unforeseen Consequences

- Sometimes we pray for things, and do not realize the full scope of what answered prayer will bring.
- Zechariah probably assumed that John would be a priest because he was.
- What did Zechariah envision when Gabriel told him that his prayers had been heard?
- Would knowing what was going to happen to John have changed Zechariah's prayers?
- John's death was not the result of Zechariah's prayers, nor was it something for which God could be blamed.

Conclusion

- John's death was not caused by his righteousness, it was caused by evil.
- When our prayers are answered, we need to trust God to have control.
- We have to trust that God is in control, even when things do not go the way we assume they should go.
- Do not be afraid, just believe!