

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: We're Having A Baby!

**Passage: Luke 1:5-25 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: The plan of God, though long in fulfillment, is never late and unfolds just like He intends, just in time.

**I. An faithful couple (1:5-7)**

- Luke sets the scene while Herod the Great was reigning as the Roman appointed “king of Judea.”
- Zechariah (the LORD remembers) was a Levitical priest, a long dependent of Aaron, in the 8th (Abijah) of 24 priestly divisions.
- Zechariah & his wife, Elizabeth (the covenant of GOD), were called “blameless” but were not “sinless.”
- Even though they were faithful to God, this couple suffered the social stigma of being childless.
- **TAKE-AWAY #1:** Faithfulness to God in this life does not guarantee “wealth, or happiness.”

**II. An angelic encounter (1:8-12)**

- Levitical priests traveled to Jerusalem twice per year to serve for 8 days in the temple worship.
- About 50 priests served each day and their specific duties were determined by casting “lots.”
- The highest duty of burning the incense, a literal once-in-a-lifetime duty, fell that day to Zechariah.
- While Zechariah was performing his duties, Zechariah fearfully encountered the angel of the Lord.
- **TAKE-AWAY #2:** Earthly honors are great but pale in comparison to God’s activity in our lives!

**III. An unbelievable message (1:13-25)**

- Don’t be afraid Zechariah, you’re not in trouble.
- Your prayer has been heard. Which one(s)?
- Your wife Elizabeth is going to have a baby boy and you need to name him John.
- **TAKE-AWAY #3:** Don’t stop praying, believing and waiting for God’s will to be accomplished.
- Many will rejoice, including you, because of how God is going to use your son.
- **TAKE-AWAY #4:** Continue learning to submit your life to God’s bigger plan & purpose.
- John is to be set apart for God’s purpose and special empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- **TAKE-AWAY #5:** God never calls His people to anything that He won’t personally equip them for.
- John would be the promised forerunner of the Messiah as prophesied by Malachi (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6).
- **TAKE-AWAY #6:** God’s promises are sure even though long waits are often involved.
- **TAKE-AWAY #7:** Every follower of the risen Jesus has a more awesome calling than John!
- Zechariah’s world was rocked and his mind was blown, and he foolishly asked for a sign of certainty.
- The angel accommodated his request and rendered him mute until the baby was born.
- Elizabeth both carefully guarded her pregnancy and praised God for removing her reproach (stigma).
- **TAKE-AWAY #8:** God’s redemptive plan has always been about removing the reproach of our sin and restoring us to Himself through Jesus!