



“Unexpected People” given an Extraordinary Blessing

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were reminded how Israel had endured 400 years of silence from Malachi with no prophets, no angelic visits, and no Scriptures added. Suddenly, God broke the silence with angelic messengers – first to Zacharias, then Mary, Joseph, and shepherds. We focused on the latter three and saw how God delights in using ordinary, humble people in His extraordinary plan.

This week, we will look at others who were able to share in the blessing of the first Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ. We will see that God’s plan included:

- the aged and seemingly forgotten
- the prayerful and patiently watching
- the foreign and willing seekers

God uses the word of God at Christmas to call all kinds of people – near and far, young and old, simple and wise – to come to Jesus Christ.

1. Zacharias & Elisabeth – Faithfully Waiting (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80)

- ✓ Righteous yet barren, long praying for a child
- ✓ God did not forget them
- ✓ John the Baptist became the forerunner of Jesus Christ

Applications:

- God’s people do not always **UNDERSTAND** what God is doing.
- God hears long-standing prayers (*1 Sam 1:10-20; Ps 34:15; Dan 9:23*)
- God hears the faithful who are barren (*Gen 18:10-14; Jdg 13:2-3; Isa 54:1*)
- God is faithful despite human weakness (*Num 23:19; Rom 3:3-4; 2 Tim 2:13*)

2. Simeon & Anna – Faithfully Watching (Luke 2:25-38)

- ✓ Elderly believers living in expectation of God's promises
- ✓ Simeon was led by the Spirit and recognized the Christ child
- ✓ Anna was a widow who worshipped day and night in God's house

Applications:

- God has extraordinary **BLESSINGS** in store for His faithful saints.
- God honors those who faithfully wait for Christ (*Isa 9:6-7; Isa 40:1-5*)
- Christians are to be led by the Holy Spirit (*Isa 30:21; Rom 8:14; Gal 5:25*)
- Faithfulness brings spiritual discernment (*Ps 25:14; Amos 3:7; Jn 7:17*)
- Faithfulness in old age brings glory to God (*Ps 84:1-4; 92:12-14; Heb 11:6*)

3. The Wise Men – Faithfully Seeking (Matthew 2:1-12)

- ✓ Likely scholars/astronomers from a distant land (like Persia)
- ✓ Students of ancient prophecies (*Num 24:17*) – also fulfilled them (*Isa 60:1-6*)
- ✓ They rejoiced, fell down, worshipped, and gave kingly gifts!

Applications:

- God still draws people today from every nation (*Matt 28:18-20; John 12:32*)
- All who seek Jesus Christ honestly will **FIND** Him (*Jeremiah 29:13*)
- Worship always results in giving – generosity is part of worship (*2Cor 9:7*)

Summary

God uses unexpected people from all walks of life in His plan to reach the world.

The first Christmas reminds us that God's greatest blessings come to those who are faithfully waiting, watching, and seeking the Lord Jesus Christ.