

Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary ►

NT Language "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

Q. Have you come to see your need for Savior?

"Righteous" must learn to repent of your righteousness, your best B/C keeps you from Savior.

3. Third, we enter Kingdom of God, participate in Kingdom of God, by faith.

Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary

Bonhoeffer on faith = faith is the whole person entering/receiving Kingdom of God as new reality "Behold I am the servant of the LORD" vs. 38

4. Fourth, this encounter w. God's Kingdom and our participation in it as a citizen by faith changes everything!

Salvation "take away my reproach" vs 25.

It calls you into a life of ongoing repentance + faith as you discover vast pockets of resistance + rebellion against God's Kingdom Moral outrage turned in

It prioritizes and relativizes all your other allegiances My experience in Indy

SCRIPTURE READING (cont)

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And 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." ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and

said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING

Redeemer Offerings for 2016

December total: \$12,490.00

Actual YTD: \$265,779.70

Target YTD: \$278,077.00

Net Difference: -\$12,297.30

2016 Target (stretch) \$289,200

2016 Target reflects Session's hope for giving in 2016 based on current giving and needs. Thank you for giving so cheerfully and faithfully.

Political Angst ... The Kingdom of God is a revolutionary ideology both socially + personally
Nietzsche's "transvaluation of values"

How revolutionary? Review

- 1 Accomplished = God's ancient purpose to restore His reign
- 2 History = the context God's kingdom breaks into
- 3 Holy Spirit = God's power to implement His kingdom

Should not surprise us... 4 Encounter

① Watch God's Kingdom Encounter ...

Zechariah

- Blameless + Righteous before God vs. 6
- Barren
- Religious Insider ... Priest ... Temple
- Angel's promise + Z's doubt, cynicism?
- Gabriel's judgment vs. 19

Elizabeth

- Blameless + Barren "personal tragedy"
- Reproach
- Faith + Glorifying God vs 25

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the Kingdom of God encounter Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary?
2. Discuss these principles of how the Kingdom of God encounters people/encountered you: (1) The Kingdom of God sweeps us up into its story without asking or apology, (2) no matter how blameless and righteous you may be, it confronts you with your need for a Savior, (3) we participate in the kingdom of God by faith, and (4) the encounter with God's kingdom changes everything.
3. What ways are the kingdom of God challenging (or should be challenging) you and transforming your life today? Pray for each other for more and more impact of God's kingdom in your lives.

Mary

- Gabriel's message ... God's Promised Messiah, Power of the Holy Spirit.
- Mary's response of faith "Behold, I am the servant of the LORD; let it be to me according to your word." vs 36

See ... Kingdom of God encounters us in a very personal, existential way ... revolutionary

"Jesus Christ takes hold of a man at the center of his life."

② Work Thru the revolutionary encounter of KofG

1. First the Kingdom of God sweeps you up into its STORY w/o asking, w/o apology + w. demand for all of you, your ❤️

Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, Mary

See? No corner of your ❤️, life, etc. is left untouched, autonomous!

Q is Kingdom of God the BIG STORY of your life?

2. Second, no matter how Holy + Blameless, and Beautiful + innocent it confronts you in your sins and need for a Savior.