

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

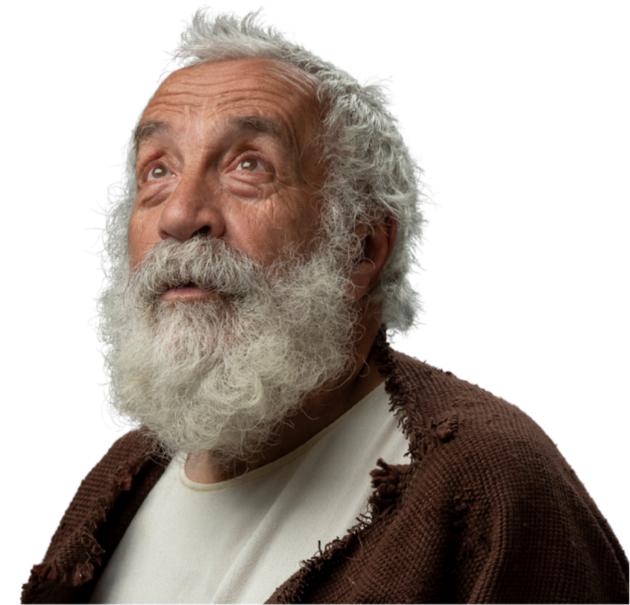


HEAD

- ✚ Mariam possessed no social, political, or financial pedigree, but her spiritual acumen was advanced beyond her years – may we endeavor to emulate her.
- ✚ The cessation and continuation of Zechariah's faculties places a premium on the importance of faith in our relationship with God.
- ✚ Mariam's and Zechariah's hymns declare, "God remembered" His people and promises. God cannot forsake, abandon, or desert Himself.



– Luke 1:46-80 –

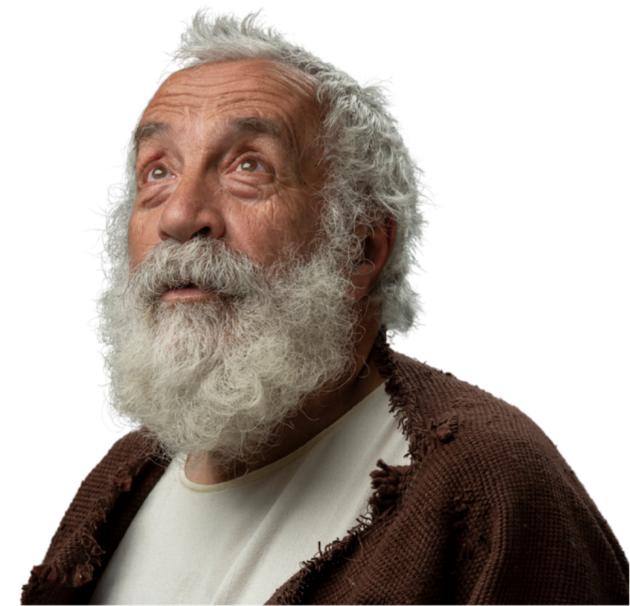


HEART

- ✚ Mary's song reveals she possessed deep theological knowledge despite being a marginalized 12-13 year old from an obscure village. What does this teach us about how God values spiritual depth over social status or credentials?
- ✚ The sermon emphasizes that Mary risked everything—her reputation, her marriage, even her life—yet still rejoiced. How can we cultivate that kind of joy when obedience to God threatens what we hold most dear?



– Luke 1:46-80 –

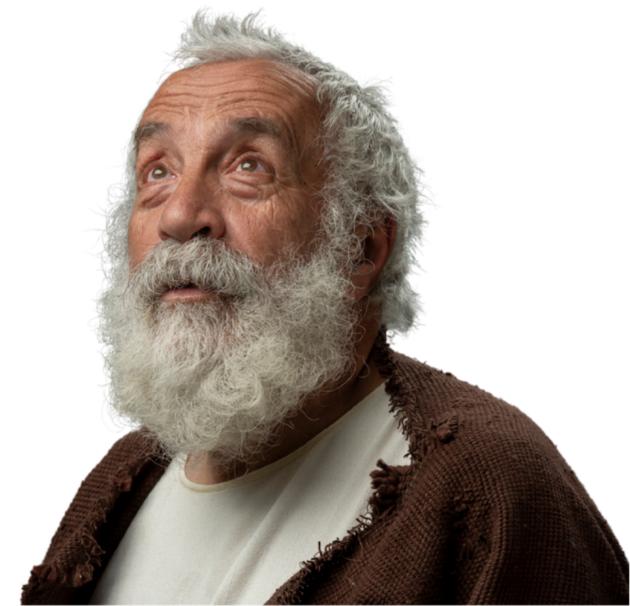


HEART

- ✚ Zechariah's faithlessness resulted in temporary deafness and muteness, yet God restored him when he acted in faith by naming his son John. What does this reveal about God's character as the God of second chances?
- ✚ The pastor states that God's plan A is humility, but plan B is humiliation. How have you seen this principle play out in scripture or in your own life?



– Luke 1:46-80 –

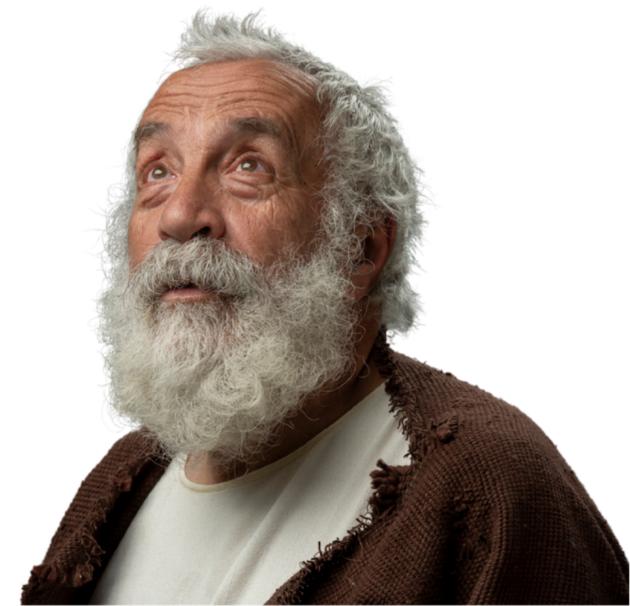


HEART

- ✚ The pastor notes that anything not done in faith is sin, regardless of how religious or service-oriented the action appears. How does this principle reshape your approach to spiritual activities and church involvement?
- ✚ The sermon describes holiness as both separateness from sin and set-apartness for sacred purpose. How can we practically live out both dimensions of holiness in our daily lives?



– Luke 1:46-80 –



HEART

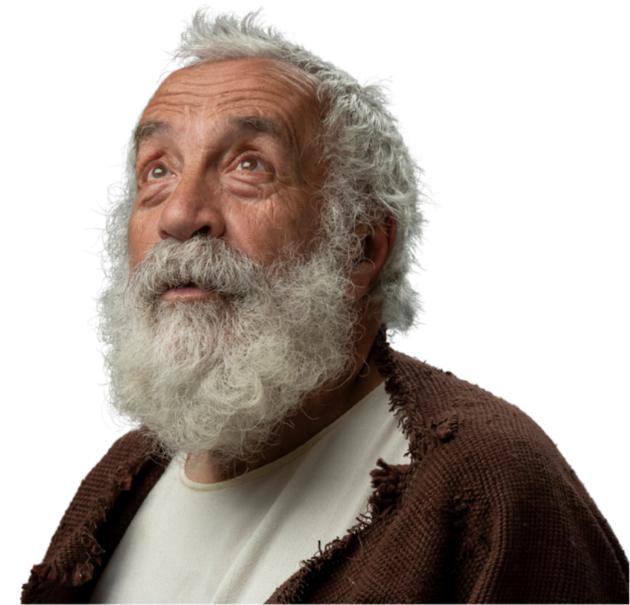
✚ Both Mary and Zechariah sang about God remembering His people and promises after long periods of waiting. How does understanding that God cannot forget us change the way we endure seasons of waiting?

3A2518

✚ The sermon defines worship as the purpose of our salvation, stating that a Christian who doesn't worship probably isn't a Christian. How does this challenge or affirm your understanding of what it means to be saved?



– Luke 1:46-80 –

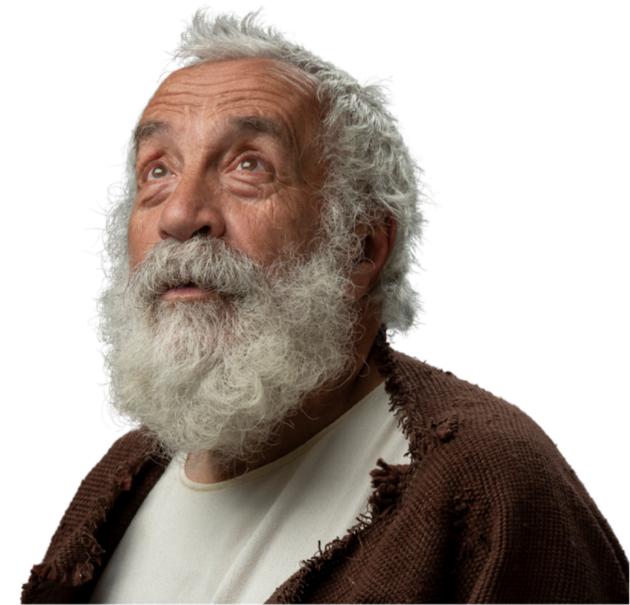


HANDS

- ✚ Choose one of the following to practice this week:
- ✚ Memorize a portion of Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) and reflect on what it reveals about God's character. Write down how this challenges or encourages you.
- ✚ Practice "Coram Deo" living - Live consciously aware that everything you do is "before the face of God." At the end of each day, journal about how this awareness affected your choices, attitudes, and actions.



– Luke 1:46-80 –

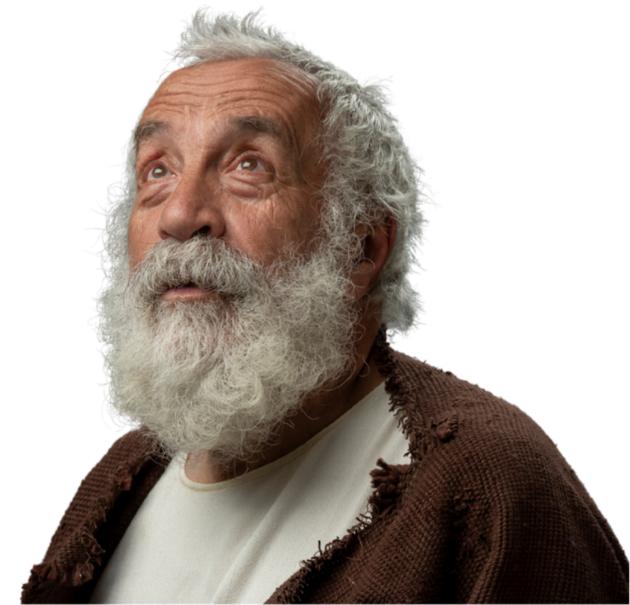


HANDS

- ✚ Choose one of the following to practice this week:
- ✚ Identify one area where you need to trust God more fully. Like Mary, write out your “Yes” to God: “May it be unto me as you have spoken.” Share this with an accountability partner.
- ✚ Create your own song or psalm of praise to God, reflecting on how He has “remembered” you and been faithful to His promises in your life.



– Luke 1:46-80 –



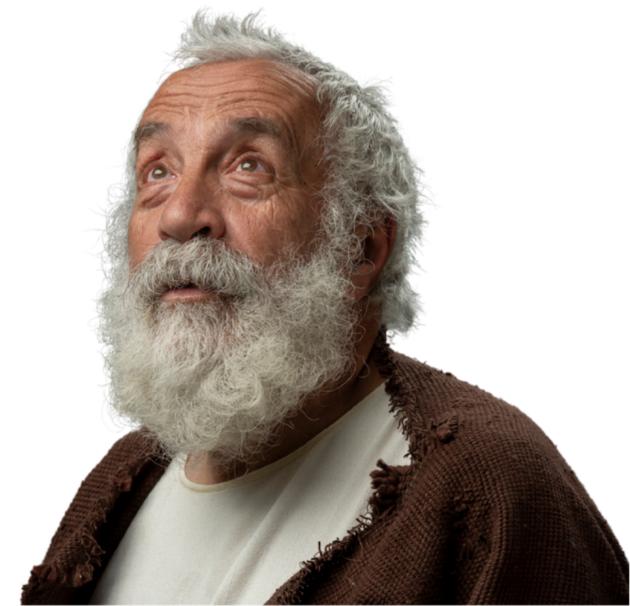
HANDS

✚ Choose one of the following to practice this week:

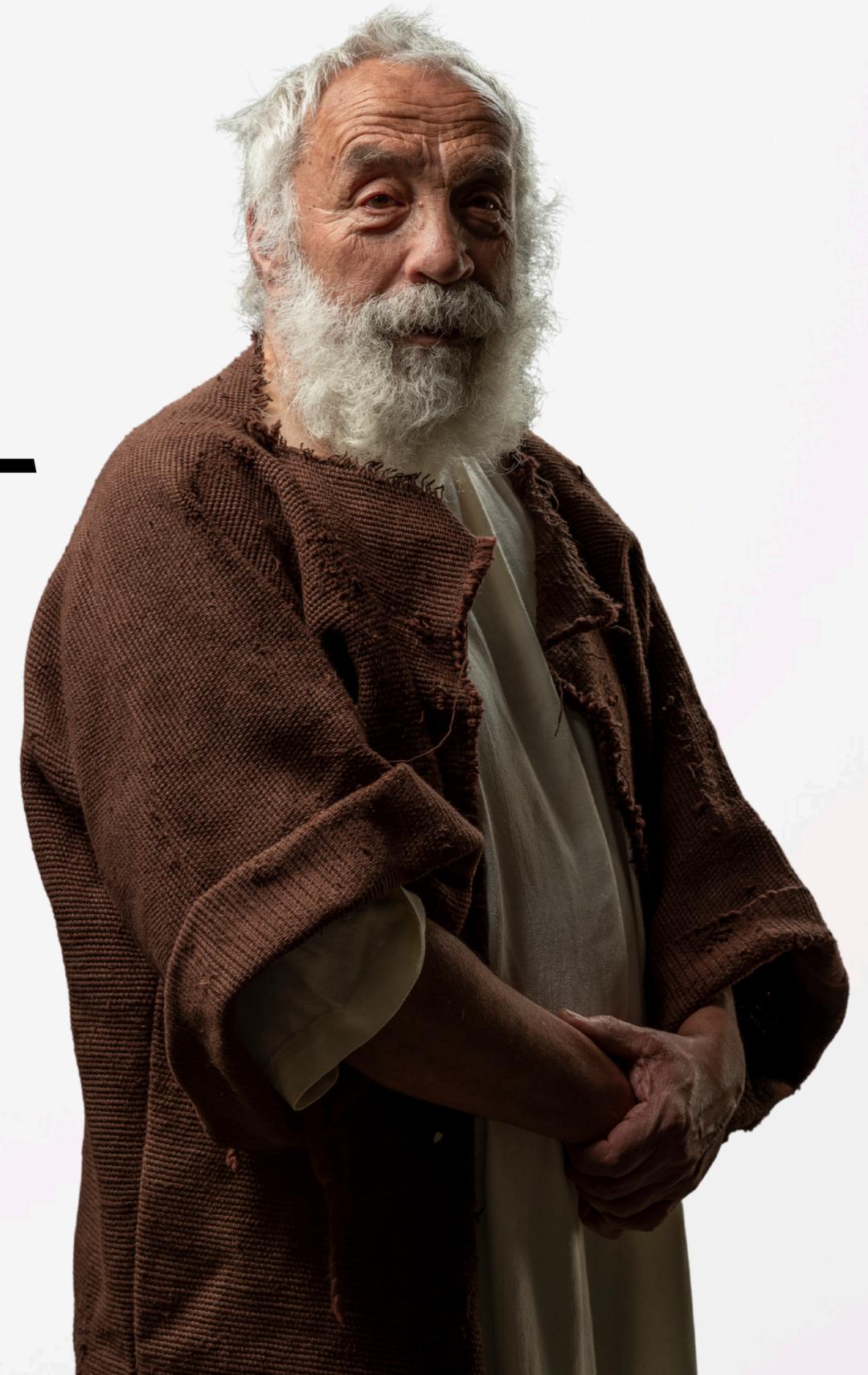
✚ Examine your worship life. Are you worshiping God regularly, or are you treating Sunday attendance as optional? Commit to consistent worship as a response to God's salvation.



– Luke 1:46-80 –



FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



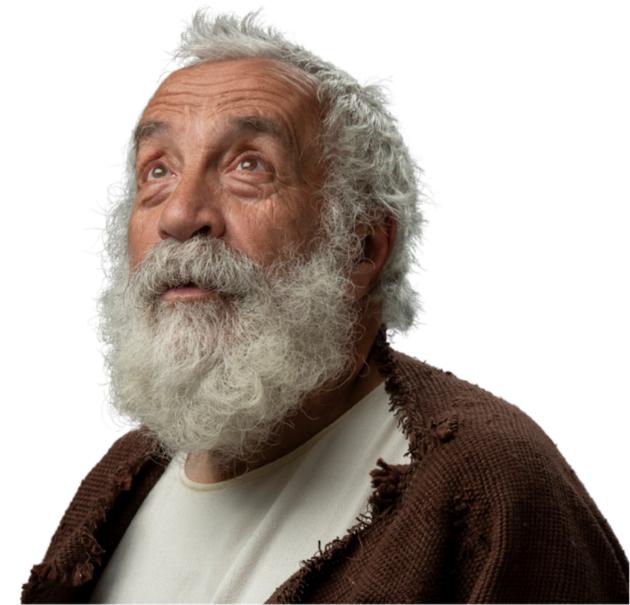
Day 1: The Magnificat - When God Magnifies the Lowly

Reading: ^{3A2518}Luke 1:46-56

- ✚ Devotional: Mary's song begins with a profound declaration: "My soul magnifies the Lord." At twelve or thirteen years old, this young maiden possessed nothing the world values—no status, no wealth, no connections. Yet she understood something essential: God delights in exalting the humble while scattering the proud.
- ✚ What does it mean to magnify God? It means to make Him large in our perspective, to enlarge His presence in our awareness. Mary faced potential disgrace, abandonment, and even death, yet she chose to magnify God rather than her problems.
- ✚ Consider what you're magnifying today. Are you enlarging your fears, your inadequacies, your circumstances? Or are you making God bigger than everything else? Like Mary, we bring nothing to God except our willingness to say yes. Our spiritual depth matters more than our social credentials.
- ✚ Reflection: What would it look like for you to magnify God in your current circumstances, especially when you feel you have nothing to offer?



– Luke 1:46-80 –



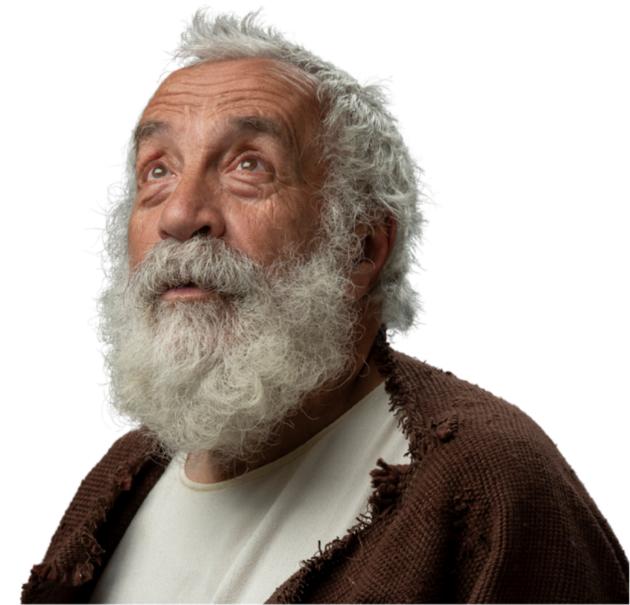
Day 2: Rejoicing in the God of Our Salvation

Reading: Luke 1:39-45; Philippians 4:4-7

- ✚ Devotional: Mary declared, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke’s gospel repeatedly emphasizes joy as the distinguishing mark of God’s people. But notice: Mary’s joy wasn’t dependent on her circumstances being favorable. She rejoiced while carrying enormous risk and uncertainty.
- ✚ Joy and happiness are not the same. Happiness fluctuates with circumstances; joy is a permanent disposition, a decision to rejoice in God regardless of what’s happening. Mary chose joy while facing potential stoning, public shame, and family rejection. Her joy flowed from who God is, not from what was happening to her.
- ✚ This challenges our conditional approach to joy. We often think, “I’ll rejoice when things get better.” But biblical joy says, “I’ll rejoice because God is good, faithful, and present—even now.” When the Holy Spirit fills us, joy should characterize our lives, not as superficial happiness, but as deep confidence in God’s character.
- ✚ Reflection: What circumstances are stealing your joy? How can you choose to rejoice in God’s character today, independent of your situation?



– Luke 1:46-80 –



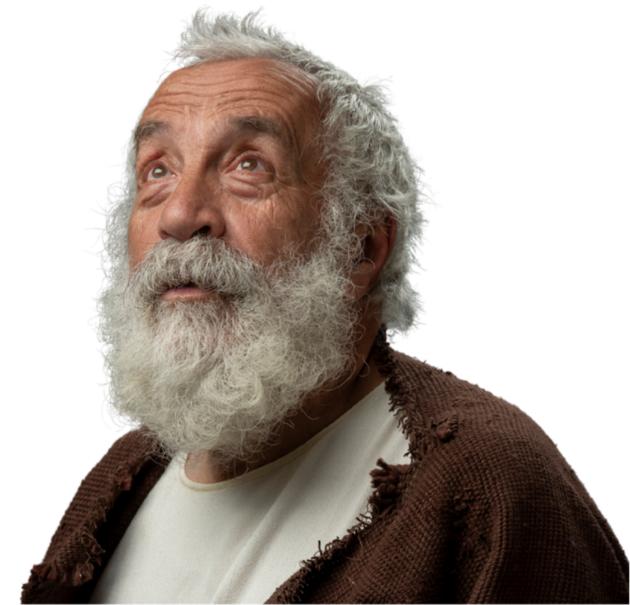
Day 3: God Remembers His Promises

Reading: Luke 1:54-55, 67-75; Genesis 12:1-3

- ✚ Devotional: Both Mary and Zechariah sang about God remembering. Mary praised God for remembering “his mercy to Abraham and his descendants forever.” Zechariah blessed God for remembering “his holy covenant.” Two thousand years had passed since God’s promise to Abraham, yet God had not forgotten.
- ✚ When Scripture says God “remembers,” it’s not because He forgot—God cannot forget. Rather, it means God acts on behalf of His people at the appointed time. What looked like delay was actually divine timing. The promise made to Abraham was being fulfilled in Mary’s womb.
- ✚ God cannot forsake you because you are part of Him. Just as you cannot abandon yourself, God cannot abandon His people. We are His heart outside His body. When you feel forgotten, remember: God’s timeline is not ours, but His faithfulness is eternal. Every promise He makes, He keeps.
- ✚ Reflection: What promise from God are you waiting to see fulfilled? How does knowing that God “remembers” change your perspective on the waiting?



– Luke 1:46-80 –



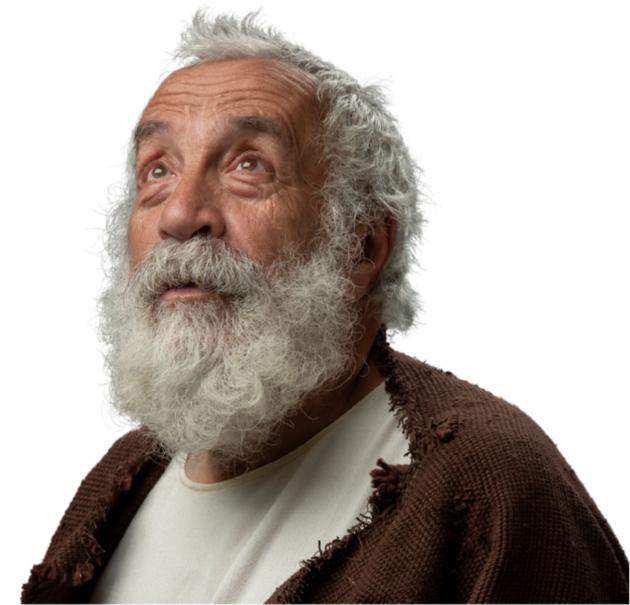
Day 4: The Cost and Privilege of Faith

Reading: Luke 1:18-25, 57-66; Hebrews 11:1-6

- ✚ Devotional: Zechariah's story teaches us that faith matters profoundly to God. When Gabriel announced Elizabeth's pregnancy, Zechariah doubted, and God rendered him deaf and mute for nine months. This wasn't vindictive punishment but a lesson in faith's importance. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
- ✚ Zechariah served in the Temple, performed religious duties, yet lacked faith in God's word. God essentially said, "Save your service if it doesn't flow from faith." This is sobering. Our worship, giving, and ministry mean nothing if they don't spring from genuine trust in God.
- ✚ But notice God's mercy: the impairment was temporary. God is the God of another chance. When Zechariah finally exercised faith by naming his son John in obedience to God's word, his faculties were restored. And what did he do first? He praised God. True encounters with God's mercy produce genuine worship.
- ✚ Reflection: Is your service to God flowing from faith or merely from religious duty? Where do you need to exercise greater faith in God's word?



– Luke 1:46-80 –



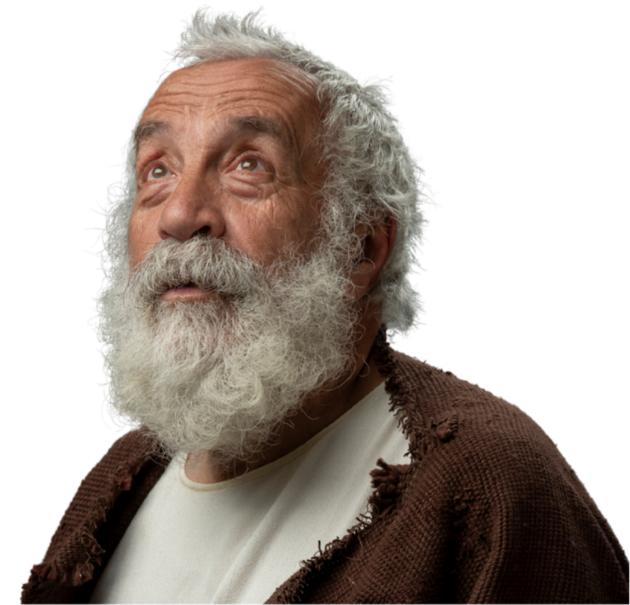
Day 5: Saying Yes with Nothing to Offer

Reading: Luke 1:26-38; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

- 🌀 Devotional: Mary's greatest offering to God wasn't her worthiness—it was her willingness. She possessed no social standing, no financial resources, no political connections. What she did have was profound: spiritual depth beyond her years and a surrendered heart that said, "May it be to me as you have said."
- 🌀 Mary's song reveals she was a student of Scripture, able to weave together theology with remarkable skill. While she had nothing the world values, she knew God intimately. This is what qualified her—not her resume, but her relationship with God and her willingness to trust Him completely.
- 🌀 God doesn't need your credentials; He needs your yes. He doesn't require your perfection; He requires your surrender. Like Mary, you may feel you have nothing to offer, but if you know God and possess a willing spirit, you have everything He needs. God specializes in using ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes.
- 🌀 Reflection: What is God asking you to surrender? What would your "yes" to God look like today, even if you feel unqualified?



– Luke 1:46-80 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Lord, like Mary and Zechariah, may we learn to magnify You, to rejoice in You regardless of circumstances, to trust that You remember Your promises, to serve You in faith, and to offer You our willing "Yes" even when we feel we have nothing else to give. Develop in us the spiritual depth that comes from knowing You intimately. In Jesus' name, Amen.



SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES

