

Luke

1:57-80

Zechariah & Suffering Well

Our Three Questions

1. What does it say?

- Authorial intent to intended audience

2. What does it mean?

- Timeless theological truth

3. How does it apply?

- Landing it in our lives

Luke 1:57-80

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. **58** And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. **59** And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child.

Luke 1:57-80

And they would have called him Zechariah after his father,⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.”

Luke 1:57-80

⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered.

Luke 1:57-80

⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,

Luke 1:57-80

⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

Luke 1:57-80

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

Luke 1:57-80

⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

Luke 1:57-80

⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

Luke 1:57-80

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

Luke 1:57-80

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” **80** And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Preview

- Eliza, Zech, and the community
- The movement of God and fear
- Zechariah's prophecy
 - Growth, Priorities, The gospel
- Learning from Zechariah
- Apps in suffering and confidence

Eliza, Zech, & The Community

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

V.13 & 24-25

Eliza, Zech, & The Community

⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.”

Eliza, Zech, & The Community

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Eliza, Zech, & The Community

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Eliza, Zech, & The Community

When forced to choose between tradition and obedience, choose obedience.

Also ...

Husbands, stand up for your wives

God's Movement and Fear

⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,

God's Movement and Fear

⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Back to back miracles

God's Movement → Expectation

Zechariah's Prophecy

- Growth

- Zechariah's faith and affections in trials

- Priorities

- Jesus first, then his own son

- The Gospel

- Jesus, the horn of salvation

Zechariah's Prophecy

- Growth

- Zechariah's faith and affections in trials

- Priorities

- Jesus first, then his own son

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- Jesus, the horn of salvation

Zechariah's Prophecy

²⁰ “And 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.”

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

Zechariah's Prophecy

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- Zechariah's faith and affections in trials

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- Jesus first, then his own son

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Zechariah's Prophecy

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy
prophets from of old,
71 that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our father
Abraham, to grant us
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of
our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

75 in holiness and righteousness before
him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet
of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his
ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on
high
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and
in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Zechariah's Prophecy

- Growth

- Zechariah's faith and affections in trials

- Priorities

- Jesus first, then his own son

- The Gospel

- Jesus, the horn of salvation

Zechariah's Prophecy

Praise God

- Personally visited and redeemed us
- Raised up one with the power of salvation
- According to His promises
- Saved from enemies, those who hate us
- In order to serve Him without fear

Zechariah's Prophecy

- We will now be holy and righteous
- John will prepare the way before Him
- Giving knowledge of salvation
 - The forgiveness of sins
- God's mercy will result in light for those in the dark – a guide into peace

Zechariah's Prophecy

Jesus is powerful!

He saves us from our enemies!

- **Satan**
- **Sin**
- **Death**

Zechariah's Prophecy

5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Zechariah's Prophecy

7:21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am!

Zechariah's Prophecy

**Death reigns over us – Romans 5:14, 17,
Hebrews 2:15**

**15:21 For as by a man came death, by a man
has come also the resurrection of the dead...**

**25 For he must reign until he has put all his
enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to
be destroyed is death.**

Application

Like Zechariah,

let suffering lead you to glorify

God for the gospel

Questions

Did anything jump out at you from the text or the message?

In the beginning of our text, we noted that traditions can press down on us and demand that we obey them in order to honor certain people. Have you ever experienced that? How did it go for you?

The people expected God to move when they saw miracles. Have you ever experienced something miraculous or talked with others about miracles in their life? Is there a similar expectation for God to move in light of these events?

Zechariah is able to come out of the other end of suffering with praise for God in his mouth. Do you find it difficult to praise God in suffering or even immediately after it? Why do you think that is?

What do you think about the three enemies that we talked about Jesus saving us from; Satan, Sin, and Death. When they are described, can you relate to wrestling with those enemies?