

Pastor Jason Huffman

“At Home in Him”

Luke 1:5-20

12/3/23

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think of when you hear the phrase “home for the holidays”? Why do you think that?
  2. Are you “at home” with your relationship with God? What makes Him feel like home? Or what doesn’t?
  3. How would you rate your “response time” to the Father? Are you quick to respond or does it take some time? Why?
  4. What does it mean to come to the Father’s house to you? Do you find it easy or hard to come to church/His house? Why?
  5. How can prayer requests become idols?
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### **Teaching Notes:**

**Our message series this month is “Home for the holidays”.**

- Home might be your childhood home.
- Maybe it is where your family is from, where you have roots.
- Home often has familiar sights or sounds or situations.

Some would say home is more than a place, it is a state of being.

**Home is a where you feel content, connected, & comfortable.  
...and it is nearly always linked with warm relationships.**

**But...when I think of “home for the holidays”...  
...I actually think of the first Christmas I wasn’t home.**

**Our first Christmas being married was in Winslow, Arizona.**  
We were not able to get back home for the holidays.

**So...what if you can’t get home for the holidays?**

What if there isn’t really a home to get to.

Maybe “home” has changed.

So when you get there you don’t feel “at home.”

...This can be a hard time of year for those kinds of reasons.

**In Winslow, we were not content in our circumstances...**

**...But we learned to be content in trusting and obeying Him.  
...We were learning to be at home in Him.**

When we learn to be content or at home in Him...  
...we can be content or at home wherever we are.

Let's focus on the spiritual journey of...  
...learning to be at home in Him.  
...of learning to have contentment, comfort, and connection...  
...in Christ.

Luke 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was

Elizabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

**Zacharias and Elizabeth are Levites and...  
...they are on the right track with God.**

**But they have a problem...**

**7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

**They have done all the right things in their life...  
...But not everything is right in their life.**

**Just because you are righteous...  
...doesn't mean everything is going to always be right.**

Sometimes you do the right thing & the right thing DOES happen.  
**...But there are always exceptions, anomalies, and outliers.  
...And it is hard being an exception.**

**We felt like we were the exceptions and outliers in Winslow.**

**Now not to spoil it, but God does have a plan...  
...BUT His plan is not making them like everyone else.**

**God's plan is not for everyone to come to our place...  
...God's plan is for everyone to come to His place.**

**So the first point is...  
...if we want to be at home in the Son we need to...  
1. Respond to the Father.**

**Our heavenly Father calls out to us.**

Through creation, circumstance, and messengers...He calls.

**...but we must respond.**

He is not going to drag us home kicking and screaming.

**8** So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, **9** according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

**Burning incense is symbolic of the prayers of the people.**

To bring the prayers of the nation is a big deal...

...but he has unanswered prayers of his own.

**But Zacharias's unanswered prayers...**

**...didn't stop him from praying for others.**

Whether things went his way or not, he still prayed and served...

...he still came to the Father's house.

**If you want to be at home with the Son...**

**2. Come to the Father's house.**

**The Father's house is where God's family is.**

It is where His servants are.

It is where the Father speaks.

It is where we belong.

**10** And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

**11** Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. **13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. **14** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

**18** And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." **19** And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. **20** But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

An angel appears and at first he is troubled and scared...

Then the angel promises a son, w/joy and gladness in the future.

...But Zecharias doesn't exactly embrace this promise.  
And he gets a little rebuke and loses his ability to communicate.

Know this: some things that seem troubling will become a blessing  
What you thought was scary might actually turn out to be sweet.

**Some of the hardest things we go through become...  
...some of the things we will be most thankful for later.**

We are thankful for the hard lessons we learned in Winslow and how it shaped us and made us thankful for everything after that!

**Like this angel...mysterious, troubling things...  
...can be what God uses to shape our character...  
...to get our attention and to fulfill his plan.**

If you want to be at home in the Son...  
**3. Trust the Father's plan.**

This was the time John the Baptist had to be born.  
This was the home John the Baptist needed to be raised in.  
This was the couple God chose to use.

**Trusting God's plan doesn't mean you always get it your way.**

**When we trust or hope in something besides the Lord...  
...it will become an idol...**

**Idols don't strengthen our faith or bring us contentment...**  
...idols disappoint, distract & dilute our real relationship w/God

**Don't let prayer requests become idols.**  
Good things we make God things become bad things.

The Apostle Paul gives us a better way in Philippians 4:11...

**I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

**How? 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Whether we are abased or abounding...

...We can learn to be content, to be at home in Him...  
...but it will require His strength.

**As you follow the 3 points:**

**Of responding and coming to the Father and trusting His plan...**

**...He will give you the strength to find your home in Him no matter what your circumstance or situation.**