

Series: Prepare Him Room I

Text: Luke 1:5-38

HI: King Jesus fulfills God's promise.

Title: The Annunciation

Hook: Are you ready for Christmas?

Date: 12.3.23

Purpose: To encourage God's people with the good news of the King's birth.

FCF: Like the characters in the story, we depend upon God's faithfulness in fulfilling his promises. His grace meets us in the waiting, as he sends his Son to save us.

COR: Our world is replete with a longing for transcendence though naturalism often deafens our ears to the idea of the miraculous. The story of Luke 1 challenges us with a historical narrative of God's in-breaking into his creation.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: 1:31-33, 35 [leading into HI post-MVM's]

Apologetic: The historical claims in these stories challenge us. This is real or fairy tale. This can't be mostly real; the claims are too absolute. This tells us that God has created it all and that he has not left us to ourselves. He breaks into his creation with a plan to redeem it. And that redemption rests upon his Son, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, sinless in life and death, resurrected from the grave, ruling in heaven, awaiting his return when he will judge the living and the dead.

Text Tone: Encourage

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Isaiah 7:14

Benediction: Isaiah 9:6

Outline:

I. What the people are expecting finds them totally unprepared. (5-25)

A. This couple is devout but desolate. (5-7)

B. Zechariah responds to big news with little faith. (8-20)

C. The people waiting on a word of blessing get a silent priest. (21-22)

D. Elizabeth finds new hope in her old age. (23-25)

II. What the Lord is preparing turns out completely unexpected. (26-38)

A. She is of low estate but highly favored. (26-29)

B. She is a virgin who will bear a son. (34-35)

C. She is afraid but obedient. (38)

D. God fulfills his promise by doing the miraculous. (34-37)

Main Idea:

Subject: What is the angel's message that so surprises Zechariah and Mary?

Complement: That God was going to miraculously fulfill his promise to his people by preparing the way and sending His King.

Exegetical Idea: Zechariah and Mary were surprised by the message that God was going to miraculously fulfill his promise to his people by preparing the way and sending His King.

Theological Idea: God miraculously fulfills his promise by sending King Jesus in the most unexpected way imaginable.

Homiletical Idea: King Jesus fulfills God's promise.

Introduction:

"something new, challenging, threatening even, takes place, causing wonder, disturbance, and surprise." Brendan Byrne

READ Luke 1:5-25

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the

disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And 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. 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.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And 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. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After 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.”

I. What the people are expecting finds them totally unprepared. (5-25)

“Zechariah” = “The Lord remembers”

Malachi 4:5-6 ⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

“John” = “God is gracious”

READ Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call

his name Jesus. ³² He 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

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

³⁵ And 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. ³⁶ And 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And 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.

II. What the Lord is preparing turns out completely unexpected. (26-38)

Jesus = “The Lord is salvation” OR “Yahweh saves”

HI: King Jesus fulfills God’s promise.

HI: King Jesus fulfills God’s promise.

Conclusion:

*Come, Desire of nations come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the Woman’s conquering Seed, Bruise in us the Serpent’s head.
Adam’s likeness now efface: Stamp Thine image in its place;
Second Adam, from above, Reinststate us in thy love.
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*