

Sermon Outline - Sun, Dec 26, 2021- Glory Be to The God of Slow Learners
Luke 1:57-80

Overview: This is our last week in our Transformative Giving conversation. We have read through the entire chapter of Luke 1. We compared the story of Mary and Elizabeth in contrast with Zachariah. Now we finish the series with our final story of good news working with the title – Glory Be to the God of Slow Learners

Review –

- Wk 1 - Luke 1:5-24 - Angel Gabriel comes to Zachariah tells him he will have the son he always wanted - he freaks out and loses his voice
- Wk 2 – Luke 1: 26-38 - Gabriel comes to Mary – tells her she is going to have a baby out of wedlock - and she says– bring it on
- Week 3 – Luke 1: 39-56 - Mary visits Elizabeth – Elizabeth and her baby rejoice and welcome – Mary prays that God’s will will be done through her baby
- Finally we get to the moment where Elizabeth and Zachariah’s baby is born
- Zachariah still can’t talk so Elizabeth and the ladies do all the work.
- When the time comes to name him, folks want to name his after his father, but Elizabeth says no – she wants him to be named John
- Not clear whether Zachariah heard her or not but he also says to name him John
- Zachariah gets his voice back and speaks a prophecy over the people and over his son

The Key Points –

- Zachariah got clear that it was not about him.
 - Rather than giving the baby his name he went with God’s name
 - It was not supposed to be about his lineage but about something new
 - Zachariah means “God remembers”; John means “God has been gracious”
 - God owes me vs. God gives me what I don’t deserve

The Prayer

- God redeems the people
- God raises up a savior
- God remembers the covenant
- God rescues them from their enemies (the Romans)
- The people respond with righteousness
- The baby prepares them for the way of peace

Questions

1. Is God calling you to change your name or to speak the name of that which you are giving birth to? What does it mean when we misname ourselves or our calling?
2. As you look at your life, where do you need to be redeemed or rescued? Are you willing to let God intervene or are you holding on to the situation that is keeping you stuck?
3. As God brings liberation, the people are free to respond with righteousness. How can you put a down payment on your liberation, what practices allow you to start walking in freedom in preparation for full liberation?