

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (November 28, 2021) **FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY**

Good morning and welcome! Today we are celebrating the first day of Advent (HOPE). Together we will be walking each day to experience the arrival of baby Jesus the son of God who is our Lord and Savior. Please do not be afraid asking yourself how to get there, God has already prepared the way (He is the Way) for us. All we must do is not to be afraid, because our prayers have been heard.

In today's story (God's Story), God will surprise Zachariah by sending the angel Gabriel to speak to him at the most unexpected time and place to give God's promise of giving to Zachariah a son (John). The fear and nervousness that the priest Zachariah will experience will make him doubt the promise that God is giving him through his Angel. This will cost him to lose the ability to speak until the day that all this thing take place. One of the very important things about it here is the revelation that the angel made to Zacharias. "Don't be afraid Zachariah, because your prayer has been heard."

Good News from Dr. Luke First Sunday in Advent: Hope
SERMON TITLE AND PASSAGE: "Your Prayer Has Been Heard" Luke 1:1-25

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 of him 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.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Why did God choose Zechariah and Elizabeth to be John's parents?
2. What were the requirements that Zachariah and Elizabeth must meet to serve God in His plan? V.6, Jeremiah 29:11

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Why is it important to God that we should be righteous (blameless) before Him? Please read Genesis 17
4. Why in our times is it more difficult to please God? Do you believe that God always hears and answers our prayers?
5. Why do we consider age to be a factor to be able to have children?
6. Why was it important that John never drank wine? What was the promise to his parents?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. Why did Zachariah not believe what the angel Gabriel was communicating to him? What was the punishment he received for not believing? What does God expect of us?
8. Why do we believe God and trust Him when He speaks to us? Why does Elizabeth thank God for His favor towards her?
9. Why is it important to thank God every time he answers our prayers? Why do you believe that God can make possible what is impossible for man?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to supply your faith. Ask God to help you be a peacemaker not someone who quarrels. Pay for someone you know that you are currently divided from. God loves us, and He will help us.