

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Overcoming the Fear of Unfulfilled Dreams

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor

December 9, 2018



"I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears."

Psalm 34:4

Have you ever experienced an unfulfilled dream?

Luke 1:5-7 When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

- **God is not limited by our frailty and weakness.**

Luke 1:8-13 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. ⁹ As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. ¹¹ While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹² Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³ But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.

- **God sees us in our suffering.**

Luke 1:14-17 You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. ¹⁶ And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

What gift of grace has God given you that you can use for His purposes?

- **God's plan to bless us is always bigger than just us.**

Luke 1:18-25 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." ¹⁹ Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! ²⁰ But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time." ²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. ²² When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary. ²³ When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. ²⁴ Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. ²⁵ "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children."

- **God delivers His promises on time!**

Big Idea: Trust in God, who fulfills His dreams for you.

But why should we trust God?

Isaiah 53:4-10 Yet it was our weaknesses he [Jesus Christ] carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all...⁷ He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. ⁸ Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. ⁹ He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. ¹⁰ **But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.** Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants...

Like Zechariah & Elizabeth...

- **Keep praying.**
- **Keep serving faithfully.**
- **Keep trusting God's promises.**

Proverbs 13:12 (NIV) Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT) and the New International Version (NIV).



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**Overcoming the Fear of Unfulfilled Dreams
#1 of 4— Dec. 9, 2018**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?

- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?

- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) In what way have you experienced unfulfilled dreams? What was this experience like for you?

4) Read Luke 1:5-25. What impacts you about this story? What do you learn about trusting God from this account?

5) Which bullet point drawn out from this story, during the message, is most significant for you and why?

6) Read Isaiah 53:4-10. How does this account of Christ's crucifixion (written 800 years before he was born), help you trust God with your unfulfilled dreams and your life?

7) In what way is God asking you to follow the example of Zechariah and Elizabeth to:

- Keep praying.
- Keep serving faithfully.
- Keep trusting God's promises.

8) Reflect on Proverbs 13:12. How does God want you to pursue Jesus as your ultimate "longing" today?



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