

THE FORERUNNER

Luke 1:5-17, 39-45, 57-80

SERMON SUMMARY:

After four centuries of silence, God's plan began to unfold with the promise of John the Baptist – the Forerunner to the Messiah. This moment was like a trumpet sounding that the time had come. In this message, we will see God's unfolding story and how that story impacts our lives today.

SERMON OUTLINE:

Setup and Payoff

The great stories set up a plot point and later bring a satisfying conclusion.

The Christmas story is not only satisfying, it is true.

The Unfolding Story

The promised son would come in the power of Elijah.

The promised son was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah's prophecy stood on the Old Testament.

Application

When you pray, trust in His timing.

God's redemption happens through families.

God's redemption is preceded by repentance.

THINK ABOUT IT/TALK ABOUT IT:

- What aspects of the Christmas story do you find particularly satisfying or fulfilling, and why?
- In what ways do you see the power of Elijah manifested in the life and ministry of John the Baptist?
- How does Zechariah's prophecy connect the Old Testament with the fulfillment in the Christmas story?
- Share a personal experience about trusting in God's timing.
- How can we actively participate in God's redemptive work within our own families?
- Discuss the connection between repentance and redemption. How does the acknowledgment of sin pave the way for God's transformative work in our lives?