



## Finding Peace in Unexpected Places Luke 1:67-79

### **Peace can be found in silence.**

<sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying...

- Zechariah's song here comes on the heels of a period of silence that may have been over a year!
- What a contrast we see between the pre-silence Zechariah, who questions in unbelief (Luke 1:18-20) and here, where he is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks for God!
- It is among the clamor of relatives and

neighbors about naming the baby that Zechariah speaks.

- There is much clamor this season to erode peace: tensions, disappointments, loneliness, frustrations, sadness.
- *Will we make space to find peace in the silence?*
- "God rarely is found in the midst of noise and restlessness; instead, [God] is the friend of silence." Mother Teresa
- "... I know He stilled the tempest and calmed the angry sea, And I humbly ask if in His love He'll do the same for me. Then I just keep quiet and think on thoughts of peace, And as I abide in stillness my restless murmurings cease."  
Helen Steiner Rice, *Let Not Your Heart be Troubled*

## **Peace can be found in service.**

<sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

- In the words of Bob Dylan:  
 “You’re gonna have to serve somebody; well, it may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody...”  
*Gotta Serve Somebody*
- Before Bob Dylan penned these words in 1979, Jesus said:  
 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.  
 John 8:34,36
- Compared to Jesus’ words, salvation first-century style was really the result of switching masters- ceasing to serve one master [enemies, sin] and serving another [God].
- We will serve someone or something- what are you serving?
- A common thief of peace during this season is serving *the expectations of others*. May we find freedom in Christ!

## **Peace can be found in the Spirit.**

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in

the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

- What this shows us is that experiencing peace is not automatic; we must be “guided into the way of peace.”
- Although we inwardly desire peace, our natural inclination leads us away from it with the fill-ins of busyness and noise.
- When you think about it, there is a lot of guidance going on in the events of Christmas: The Shepherds are guided to the manger... The Wise Men are guided by the star they followed... Joseph is guided to seek refuge in Egypt... Joseph is then guided to return to Nazareth...
- All this underscores our need to be “guided into the way of peace.” Allow the Good Shepherd to lead you to His peace!