

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2019 Advent Series

These questions are for the **December 1, 2019** sermon, "Preparations For Christmas." Please read the sermon passage (Luke 1:5-25) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

1. Do we have eyes to see that God's timing is perfect? (5-12)
  - a. Luke wants us to know for certain (1) that the things "accomplished among us" (4) are fulfilled prophecy.
  - b. There are many reasons to think that God's timing is bad, lacking and late.
    - i. Time of Herod (horrible dictator)
    - ii. Zechariah and Elizabeth are childless (disgraced) and too old.
    - iii. There's been no word at all from God for 400 years; most have forgotten God.
  - c. While they wait,
    - i. Zechariah and Elizabeth have been both righteous and blameless.
    - ii. They have continued to serve the Lord (8) and pray to the Lord (10).
2. Do we have ears to hear that God's providence is for our joy? (13-23)
  - a. God is about to move his gracious and perfect plan forward through a miraculous birth.
  - b. John is the "forerunner" of Jesus whose main role is to "prepare the way" for him.
    - i. This role was prophesied hundreds of years prior (Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3-5)
    - ii. The forerunner would run ahead to announce that a new king is now ruling!
    - iii. "Preparing the way" was a matter of making certain that roads were ready.
  - c. John's key statement: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."
  - d. Zechariah asked for more evidence, and his mouth was closed for nearly a year.
3. Do we have a voice to praise God for his grace? (24-25)
  - a. Elizabeth went into seclusion for 5 months, pondering these things in her heart.
  - b. She believed that this promise proved that God was watching over her with grace.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In a time period marked by silence from heaven, decaying morals in the culture and the people of God and personal disappointment, Zechariah and Elizabeth lived lives of righteousness and blamelessness, and they maintained faithful service and prayer. How do these truths instruct and encourage you this Christmas?
2. Based on #1, above: The main emotion of the Advent season seems to be waiting on the Lord and anticipating his faithfulness. Do you believe with certainty that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of prophecy? Do you believe with certainty that his second coming is certain?
3. Based on #2, above: John was the forerunner of Jesus, sent to turn the hearts of many to receive Jesus. As you examine your own heart, are there pot holes that exist simply because you are turned away from taking God seriously? Bitterness? Unforgiveness? Unbelief?
4. Based on #2, above: Zechariah asked for more evidence. Do you ever struggle with wanting/waiting for more evidence? What should we learn from Zechariah?
5. Based on #3, above: Elizabeth has enough evidence, and realizes that God has listened to her, and that he is watching over her. Do you worship God for his grace in your life?