

BARRENNESS TO BLESSING

(12/01/2024; Luke 1:5-25; Richie Pendred; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: God uses Elizabeth’s inability to have a child to demonstrate His almighty power and renew His work of salvation for His people. In the midst of barrenness, God brings joy to His people. So, Christians must trust God in our suffering, knowing His ways are good and our hope is sure.

I. Zechariah’s Unbelief – Read Luke 1:5-23

- A. In verses 5-9, what details do we learn about the life of Zechariah and Elizabeth?
- B. According to verse 7, why did Elizabeth and Zechariah not have a child?
- C. Read Luke 1:13-17 and Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6. What similarities do you find between these two passages? When Gabriel appears before Zechariah, what promise(s) does he give?
- D. How did Zechariah respond to God’s promise? How does his response display his lack of faith?

II. Elizabeth’s Faith – Read Luke 1:24-25

- A. Read verses 24-25. What observations do you make from these two verses?
- B. How does Elizabeth respond to God’s glorious blessing of a child?
- C. Read verse 25. What does it mean that God took “away my reproach among people”?
- D. What are some indicators from verses 24-25 that Elizabeth actively trusts in God? How would you like to grow in trusting in God amid trials and suffering?

III. The Believer’s Response - Application

- A. When you’re in a trial, how do you typically view your difficulty? What would a proper perspective of our suffering look like?
- B. How can we cultivate a heart that contemplates God’s faithfulness in our lives and His Word?
- C. Where have you seen God’s faithfulness in your life or in your Bible reading this past month?
- D. Where are you prone to question God rather than take Him at His Word? How would you like to grow in trusting Him?