



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of May 15 & 16, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 1:67-80

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

Following the birth of John the Baptist, his father Zechariah gives his "benedictus" or blessing that prophesied both the coming Messiah, who will save His people Israel; and also the role his son will play as herald to the coming King.

Discussion Questions

1. For Zechariah, the good of Israel and the establishment of the kingdom of God was of much greater importance than his own personal happiness and the establishment of his own little kingdom. How do you think nine months of affliction (muteness) and 400 years of persecution and silence from God shaped Zechariah's priorities and perspective on his life? How have you seen trials and tribulations shape your own priorities and perspective on life?
2. In order to properly worship God, we must realize that there is something much bigger and more important than our own lives - and that is the purposes, plans, and expanding kingdom of God. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
3. The purpose and goal of our salvation - of being set free from sin - is to worship and serve God. In our sermon, we heard that we all serve something. What are some things people "serve" in life other than God? Who, or what, do you serve?
4. John the Baptist was great only because he would be a herald for the Messiah and point people to Jesus Christ. In light of eternity, what greater honor could a person have? Explain your answer. Also, why is it fitting for Zechariah to use the imagery of a sunrise to help explain John's role "**to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins**"?