

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

12/10/17

Text: Luke 1:67b-79 (ESV)

Title: Joy Because of Deliverance

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Today we looked at Zechariah's song in Luke 1 as he responds with joy to God fulfilling His promises and sending a son, John the Baptist. Zechariah's initial response was cynicism because he had grown weary and doubted that God would ever fulfill his promise to save his people. Like Zechariah, we often look at our lives through the wrong grid, expecting God to make us happy or change our circumstances and we end up doubting God's goodness because He doesn't do things the way we want. The beauty of the gospel is that God keeps his promises, not to make us happy or "fix" our circumstances, but to redeem us. Like a shepherd rejoicing over finding his lost sheep, God sings songs of joy over us. The only way we can truly experience joy in this life, and sing praises to God, is if we first hear him singing joyfully over us.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, it had been 400 years since the prophets. The people had been yearning for hundreds of years for God to save them, and they grew cynical in their unbelief. Eventually they began to believe God might never keep his promises.*
 - When have you grown cynical because you've stopped believing God would follow through on what you expected from him?**
- 2. Tim said the "grid" we use to look at life will determine if we're actually joyful in God. We believe God owes us a happy life, or that he'll change our circumstances if we follow the rules. (If I'm a better Christian, I'll be more joyful.) We are more focused on our actions and circumstances, and less on God.*
 - Where are you most susceptible to believing that God owes you a happy life?**
 - How have you believed that if you do the right thing God would change your circumstances and make you happy?**
- 3. Rather than seeing God as a coach, getting us to do better, or as a manager who's supposed to reward us when we obey, we are called to see him as our redeemer who saved us and loved us when no one else would or could. As Tim said, only when we hear the voice of Jesus singing over us, will we be able to truly sing over God with joy.*
 - Read Zephaniah 3:14-20. Do you believe that God is wild about you and sings songs about you? (Why or why not?)**
 - What song would you sing over God?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

MISSION

Prepare for Gospel Community:

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Ask yourself, "What can I do to express my love for God and for others in response to this sermon?"