

A SONG OF TRUST

Luke 1:5-23; 67-75
Pastor Alan Dionson
December 4, 2022

INTRO:

1. The silence of God to **Israel**
2. The silence of God to **Zechariah**

A. **ZECHARIAH'S CRISIS**

1. He had an **ideal** marriage (v. 5-6)
2. He had an **imperfect** circumstance (v. 7)
3. He had **inhibitions** of what God was about to do (v. 18)

B. **ZECHARIAH'S CHARACTER**

1. He maintained his **position** in God (v. 6a)
2. He kept the **promises** of God (v. 6b)
3. He continued **praying** to God (v. 8-10)

C. **ZECHARIAH'S CELEBRATION**

1. God answers **directly** to our requests (v. 11-13)
2. God's answer brings **delight** (v. 14)
3. God's answer is a **demonstration** of His greater plans (v. 76-80, 68-69)

CONCLUSION:

This was the first song of the first Christmas. And the lesson for us is this: Even in apparent silence, God is preparing you and me for Christmas. He's not preparing us for the holiday of Christmas, but for the reality of Christmas: "God with us."

TABLETALK QUESTIONS

Many of us are uncomfortable with silence. Have you ever been in a small group praying, and there were 30 seconds of silence? It feels like an eternity. Have you ever prayed and prayed about a struggle in your life, and as best you could tell, God was silent? Most of us have experienced that, and at the time it seemed like we would never hear from God. But for God to be silent for 400 years? Generations went by without a fresh word from God. True, Israel had the law of Moses and the words of the prophets, but only a few gave themselves to understanding the words and promises of God; only a few were willing to wait their entire lives if necessary to hear from God.

1. Read Luke 1:5-25; 67-80
2. If you are with others and there is silence, is it comfortable or uncomfortable for you? What if you are by yourself?
3. What is the significance of Zechariah and Elizabeth as a choice of the birth narrative in the gospel? What is their crisis, character and circumstance that God would include them in the grand design of redemption?
4. Why do you think God is sometimes silent? How might this silence have prepared Zechariah for the coming Messiah and John's role in introducing him?
5. Put yourself in Zechariah's place. What would you have thought and felt? How might this silence have prepared Zechariah for the coming Messiah and John's role in introducing him? Zechariah must have pored
6. As you prepare for this holiday season, what keeps the purpose of it central in your mind? How do you keep perspective on what it is really about?

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