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Christmas

devotions

2023

DEVOTION #01: LUKE 1:5-25

Get the People Ready

Read:

Luke 1:5-25

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.

Read:

Luke 1:5-25

¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

¹⁹ The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realised he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people.”



Devotional

Get ready for Him

Our parents can go crazy preparing everything for Christmas. They've got to get the tree up, buy the presents, mow the lawn, prepare the turkey and invite all your cousins over! There's so much to do for this day! The amount of preparation reflects the occasion, and the importance of who is coming.

A long, long time ago when Herod was King, there was this old priest, Zechariah. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, had been trying for ages to have a baby, but couldn't (did I mention they were super old?). But one day an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him, "Your wife is pregnant! His name will be John, and he will prepare the way for the Lord."

Have you ever asked, "What's the point of my life?" Well get this: The whole purpose of John's life was to prepare the way for the Lord. At the end of Luke 1:17 we read that John's life purpose was 'to make ready a people prepared for the Lord'. Preparing for Christmas and all your cousins to come over is a big deal. Imagine you then found out that Taylor Swift or Harry Styles was also coming over. You'd probably pre-prepare. You'd pull out all the stops, and make sure that everything was perfect, because that would be a big deal. Well, if the amount of preparation reflects the importance of who is coming, then John being born to prepare the way for Jesus must mean that Jesus is a REALLY big deal!

