

Sermon #1: Be the Movement

01/17/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 1:5-38)

1. Verses 5-6 reveal both the priestly line of Zechariah and Elizabeth (meaning their children would qualify as priests) and their godly character. How does verse 7 create tension in this story?
2. Where else in the history of God's working out His plan has the barrenness of a couple been part of the story? (see Gen 11:30; 25:21; 29:31; 1 Samuel 1:5)
3. Why might God work through this common scenario (barrenness) when He is choosing to do a significant work in His plan of salvation?
4. How is John a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies? (see Malachi 3:1 & 4:5-6)
5. How does Zechariah respond to this revelation from the angel?
6. How does Zechariah's lack of faith (by inferring he needed a sign greater than seeing & hearing an angel - "How shall I know this?") reflect our frequent doubt in God's ability to fulfill His revealed promises?
7. When an author (Luke) puts two similar accounts together he often expects the reader to compare & contrast them. What are some similarities and contrasts in these birth prediction stories (John's birth vss 5-25 and Jesus' birth vss 26-38) & what might we learn from them?
8. What facts are revealed about Jesus in this passage that communicate His unique nature of being both fully human and fully God?
9. How can we properly see Mary and humbly learn from her example in response to this unique event?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

This passage so clearly points to the coming of Jesus and His fulfillment of age-old prophecies. Ponder for a moment how amazing these angelic revelations must have been. It's easy to see why people now-a-days would doubt such accounts. However, consider what we've learned about Luke's purpose and method for writing his Gospel (see chpt 1:1-4). Luke carefully researched and investigated these stories and those who witnessed them. Look at the specific detail Luke includes in these stories. This is not the method, nor detail, used when weaving a false narrative. The work of God and the life of Jesus is woven into the history of mankind. No other religion has such a detailed and interwoven story into human history. Take a moment to think anew about the utterly human, historic and miraculous story of how Jesus came to earth.

- How does seeing this story move your heart to love Jesus more deeply and trust God's plan more fully?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. How does this passage encourage you to trust God's over-arching plan in history even when it seems impossible or delayed?
2. How does knowing God sent His Son through poor and unimportant people in society and to a nation that was in subjugation to the Romans, remind you that our mission as Christians is not tied to the political power and privilege of this world?
3. As the church, how can we restore and return to the simplicity, humility and power of the gospel story in our world without the need for personal comforts or political support?
4. What step of faith could you take in your life to fully embrace the reality and hope of Jesus Christ in this world?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.