

Sermon #3: Redirected Legacy

01/31/21

BREAKING THE ICE

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

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 1:57-80)

1. Despite Zechariah's moment of skepticism over the revelation of John's conception & birth, how does the account of John's birth in verses 57-63 reveal Elizabeth's and Zechariah's "righteousness before God" (Lk 1:5-6)?

The 400 years of Jewish history leading up to this moment have been called the period of silence. God had not spoken through a prophet, the last being Malachi, for 400 years. Malachi 4 was the last recorded prophetic words of God to His people prior to this moment.

2. Read Malachi 4 and compare it to Zechariah's prophecy (68-79) as well as vs 16 & 17 spoken by the angel, Gabriel, about John. How do you see Malachi 4 being fulfilled in John's birth?

Zechariah's prophetic song speaks of three key covenants God made with His people: The Davidic Covenant (vs 69), The Abrahamic Covenant (vs 72-72), The New Covenant (vs 77). These covenants are all coming together in the coming Savior for which John will prepare the way.

Read about each of these covenants and discuss how their fulfillment is coming about:

3. Davidic Covenant (read 2 Samuel 7:4-16)
4. Abrahamic Covenant (read Genesis 15:12-20; 17:1-8)
5. New Covenant (read Jeremiah 31:31-34)
6. How powerful would this moment have been for Zechariah, Elizabeth and all those witnessing this event that these promises dating back hundreds, and even a thousand years, where about to see some fulfillment?
7. Pause to ponder what this teaches us about God, the promises He makes & His timing compared to ours?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment and embodiment of each of these covenants God made with His people. Jesus was the true and perfect Abraham, walking blameless before the Father and becoming a spiritual father of many nations. Jesus was the perfect priest, offering Himself as the satisfactory sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins and the establishment of the New Covenant. Jesus is, and will be, the final and eternal king over the New Heavens and Earth as the true and perfect Davidic King. All of salvation history was coming into focus with the inauguration of John's ministry. He would prepare the way for Jesus, the Fulfiller of every covenant promise.

- How does seeing God's covenant faithfulness in Jesus' first coming encourage your heart to cling to His faithfulness to bring about His second, final coming in glory?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. How should a passage like this impact our attitude through seasons when it seems like our world is crumbling and God's not working?
2. What can we learn from Zechariah & Elizabeth's example of excitement over answered prayer even when their son would never marry & his life would ultimately be all about Jesus?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's sovereign faithfulness to use imperfect people to accomplish His perfect plan?
4. How can we, as the Church, live faithfully and with hope in Jesus' second coming such that others may come to meet, know & follow Jesus?

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.