

Luke 1 pt 6

Luke 1: 67-80

67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people,

69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David,

70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began,

71 That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant,

73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins,

78 Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

1. Luke writes to Theophilus
2. In our last study, Luke was painting a picture of what God's **mercy & grace** look like
 - a. As Zechariah's tongue was loosed and he praised God

3. In today's study, Luke highlights what happens to Zechariah as he's filled with the Holy Spirit

- a. **He's prophesying and blessing God with a "Benedictus"**

I. Blessing God

II. Blessing man

I. Blessing God

1. As Zechariah lines himself up with God's Word to him and his tongue is loosed
2. It's interesting that Zechariah doesn't mention his son until Vs. 76 and is preoccupied with God
 - a. He begins to praise God and prophecy
 - i. The first thing we mention is what we've been meditating on
 - b. I believe there is a connection of those who are filled with God's Spirit and the natural response of prophesying
 - i. Prophecy is a supernatural utterance
 - ii. A truly Spirit filled believer will bless the Lord as well as his fellow man
3. **Here he blesses the Lord God of Israel and mentions a couple of things.**
 - a. **Promise of salvation**
 - b. **Patriarchal covenant**

4. **He begins with promise of salvation by saying**

a. **Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people**

b. It's a big deal when someone important visits you

c. There are ... stories ... of Queen Victoria's visits to peasants' homes
.... (J.R. Miller)

d. God visited His people before

i. And we have examples in the Bible of these visitations

ii. He visited our first parents in the Garden of Eden.

1. **Gen 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel

iii. He visited Abraham and was entertained by him.

iv. He visited Jacob ...[and wrestled with him]

v. He visited Moses ... at the burning bush.

vi. He visited Joshua by the walls of Jericho.

- vii. But the most wonderful visit that the Lord ever made to this earth--was when Christ came and stayed here more than thirty years. (**J.R. Miller**)

- e. **John 1:14** The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us

- f. What a glorious visitation filled with humility, difficulty & glory

- g. Many were deceived & didn't understand this visitation by God
 - i. They missed Him

- h. (**Spurgeon**; all of grace)
A minister called upon a poor woman, intending to give her help; for he knew that she was very poor. With his money in his hand, he knocked at the door; but she did not answer. He concluded she was not at home, and went his way. A little after he met her at the church, and told her that he had remembered her need: "I called at your house, and knocked several times, and I suppose you were not at home, for I had no answer." "At what hour did you call, sir?" "It was about noon." "Oh, dear," she said, "I heard you, sir, and I am so sorry I did not answer; but I thought it was the man calling for the rent."

- i. Just as this poor woman missed a timely visitation, Israel did as well
 - j. Many today in churches miss the visitation of God thinking He's coming to collect
 - k. Instead, He's here to give you what you need; To help you
5. He did more than visit & tabernacle with us and show us God
- a. Vs. 69 And has raise up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David
 - b. A horn speaks of strength
 - c. **Ps.18:1,2** "I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."
 - d. This horn is unbreakable;
 - i. This salvation is unbreakable and undeniable
 - e. It's strength is able to save the most vile sins committed by man

6. It's no accident that The horn of salvation is tied to King David
7. David had great qualities about him, but also many disqualifying traits as well
8. By God's Grace, David received a covenant from God
9. A covenant is more than a contract
 - a. A promise, an oath, not to be broken
 - b. Normally a covenant involves 2 parties
 - c. **God gave David a promise in 1 Chronicles 17:11–14**
(Your Son will reign on the throne forever)
10. This covenant was a Unilateral covenant about the coming Messiah
 - a. A promise made by one party where regardless of what happens, He will perform
 - b. What's amazing is that God swore this oath to David knowing that David would commit murder, adultery & count on the size of his army

- i. God knew David would do this and still gave this amazing oath

11. ...Salvation is not for people who have it pretty much together. They are in bondage to sin, oppressed by Satan, sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. It would seem reasonable for God to say, "Make some efforts at self improvement, and maybe then we can talk about salvation." But, no, the tender mercy of our God means, as Paul puts it, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5: 6, 8). (**Cole**)

- a. That's probably why Zechariah was able to relate as he recognized God's oath to David did not change
- b. God's oath to me will not change either

12. The horn of Salvation is not simply a legal transaction

- a. Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation...
- b. Salvation is a person - Jesus
 - i. Our salvation is wrapped up in a person
- c. It's not about any ceremony
- d. It's not about mustering up enough godliness to make it

- i. It starts, continues and ends with Christ.
 - 1. We often try to save ourselves from a situation, sin...
 - 2. Redemption, deliverance, freedom, victory is all wrapped up in The Person of Christ

13. How can you be sure about this salvation Zachariah?

- a. The prophets (who spoke for God) said it is so
- b. God's Word declares it

14. **Zechariah could have read this in the O.T and look for a reason not to believe it**

- a. He could have argued with the point that there was no descendant of David sitting on the throne of Israel.
- b. David's seed is not on the throne
- c. In looking from his human perspective, he would have been correct
- d. That's what the enemy uses with us.
- e. **Human observation to judge the promise of God**

- f. **Jer 29:11** says one thing, but I'm experiencing something else
- g. This is a dangerous route and it leads to hard-heartedness
- h. Zechariah by the Holy Spirit **chose** to believe & link the promise made to David and the salvation of God - **Jesus**
- i. It's speaking of a permanent salvation delivered to God's people once and for all
- j. The Messiah would be from the lineage of King David (Mary & Joseph)

15. He goes back even further than David

- a. The Patriarch Abraham is also mentioned here
- b. God spoke promises to him
- c. That through his Seed, all the earth will be blessed (Gal 3:16)
- d. That was also a unilateral covenant given to Abraham
- e. Why Abraham?

- i. Was he from a God fearing home?
- ii. Was he always faithful?
- iii. Did he always tell the truth?
- iv. Was he always obedient?

- v. **Not at all**

- vi. God chose a week older man who was a pagan & without child & didn't have it together to speak an oath to

- vii. Walk before me Abraham, I want to bless you
 - 1. I want to journey with you

- viii. I'm going to protect you, favor you and supernaturally provide for you

- ix. **In your Seed, all the earth will be blessed**

- x. I will do what you cannot imagine
 - 1. Not at 75, but at 100

- xi. I promise you a seed and will protect that seed

- xii. And God did protect it all throughout the history of Israel

1. Protection from all of their enemies
 - a. Protected from Pharaoh in Egypt
 - b. Protected from evil kings in Israel
 - c. Protected from pagan nations while in exile

 - d. God knows how to protect His children

- f. That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us

- g. The Jews have always had enemies throughout their history
 - i. Zacharias was probably speaking of Rome that dominated their lives

1. Our enemies today are
 - a. The world
 - b. The devil
 - c. The flesh

16. That we might serve Him
 - a. Without fear
 - b. In holiness & righteousness

17. This is the work of salvation

- a. It sets you free from fear
- b. You are able to live a holy life because you are declared righteous and you are going through sanctification

18. What God has done to and through David & Abraham, He is faithful to follow through on His promise

19. God is able to make the impossible possible

- a. Our human nature would have said covenant or no covenant
- b. David's wicked choices would leave God no choice but walk away
- c. Abraham's taking Hagar and having Ishmael would cause God's anger to forget His oath
- d. My lack of consistency will surely cause God to forget His promise to me; I don't deserve it
- e. It's a unilateral oath of salvation & deliverance, received by faith.

20. **What are you saying Zechariah**

- a. **I'm blessing God for His faithfulness even though I have been faithless**
 - i. **I thank Him for what He has already done**
- b. **It may have yet to happen in the natural, but as far as faith is concerned, it's already done**
- c. **I choose to believe God**

II. Blessing man

1. **Now Zechariah turns his attention & blesses on his son**
2. **If we are filled with God's spirit, we are not just blessing God, we're also blessing those around us**
 - a. If we're not, it's a good indication we're not really filled
3. And you child will be called the prophet of the Highest
4. Zechariah is not upset that his son will not be called after him
 - a. He didn't say, your legal name is John, but we'll call you Zach

b. **You will be called the prophet of the Highest**

c. My job is to help you fulfill your destiny, not my desires

d. So every time you hear your name John, you'll understand that you'll also understand your destiny

i. By the Grace of God

ii. You are the prophet of God

5. Brief word on how important our words are to our children

a. Speak words of life, blessing, protection,

b. The power of life and death are in the tongue

c. Our words penetrate deep into the hearts of our children

d. Zechariah is speaking life over his child

e. I don't think John would have been as effective without the love and support of his parents.

f. You will **prepare** the way

i. By living your faith

- ii. By proclaiming your faith
- iii. How?
 - 1. By drawing near to God in truth
 - 2. Your life will be an example to many
- g. You will proclaim salvation to people
 - 1. The forgiveness of their sins
 - 2. You will preach and teach people the ways of God through the tender mercies of our God with which the DAYSPRING from on high visited us
- ii. That is something that all can relate to, Dawn
- iii. Dayspring speaks of sunrise
 - 1. A new day is dawning and the sun will rise and visit us
- iv. As we only have **1 sun** in nature, so we only have **1 Son of God full of Grace & truth!**
- h. The Sun is a picture of Jesus who is
 - i. Mal.4:2 "But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness** shall arise With healing in His wings;"
 - ii. Dawn brings a gentle increase of light (Jesus is gentle)

- iii. Perfectly positioned (He's central & glorious)
 - iv. Source of life (I am the way, truth and life)
 - v. Warmth (We'd freeze without His love)
 - vi. Ps.84:11 "For the LORD God is **a sun** and shield;"
- i. To give light – to those in darkness!
 - i. **Consistent light**
 - 1. He's always shining and does not change even when we are currently in darkness
 - j. To guide our feet – to know the way!
 - i. Where does He guide our feet?...Into the path of peace!
 - ii. Ps.105:1 "Your word *is* a **lamp** to my feet & a **light** to my path."
 - k. **Vs. 80** So the child grew and became strong in spirit and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel
 - i. He grew physically & spiritually.
 - l. In the desert – Wilderness. The desolate region around the Jordan & the Dead Sea
6. It's not a coincidence that Luke mentions the desolate regions of the desert

- a. That's where growth happens
- b. Zechariah's wilderness experience brought him closer to God's heart
- c. His son John wilderness experience made him strong in spirit
- d. Your wilderness experience will also draw you closer to God