



Series: Waiting For God

Sermon: Part 2: Doubting God In Our Waiting

Date: Sunday, December 10th, 2023

What happens when God gives us a next step as to what we need to do in the midst of our waiting, yet we doubt Him, His goodness, or His plans for us?

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. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. "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. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 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. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 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." "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." (Luke 1:5-18)

_____ : a feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction about something

Doubt really comes from a posture of _____ in God, unbelief in His goodness, unbelief in His providence, and unbelief in His power.

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. (Luke 1:19-23)



After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days He has shown His favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.” (Luke 1:24-25)

Rather than doubting God’s ability to do something like this, Elizabeth immediately gives all the honor, glory, and credit to the Lord for this pregnancy.

Waiting For God:

1. We have a _____ to make as to how we are going to respond to God in our waiting: with trust or with doubt

2. Even if we do doubt, God remains _____ to us

God is bigger and greater than all of our doubts.

3. _____ to God and His will for our lives allows us to experience Him in deeper ways

He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. (Luke 1:63)

Scripture referenced in sermon: Luke 1:67-79

Bottom Line: *In our waiting, when we do take the step of faith to trust God, we will see Him move above and beyond what we could ask, think, or imagine.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. When it comes to waiting, when God gives you a next step, do you respond like Zechariah or like Elizabeth?
2. What is a next step that God has already given you in the midst of your waiting that you know you need to take, but yet you find yourself doubting God and are delaying in taking that next step?

Songs used in service: The Jesus Way (Phil Wickham), Something Good (Gateway Worship), Believe For It (CeCe Winans), Trust In God (Elevation Worship), Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Thomas Chisholm)

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Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?