

## Outline for August 29, 2010 Luke 1:18-25– Silence is Golden

Introduction: As we continue in Luke's infancy narrative, we are struck by the exchange between Gabriel and Zechariah and the majesty of God in it all. We must not allow ourselves to be caught up in the details and not see the big picture. Yet, when looking at the big picture, it comes into brilliant focus when we see the details. Luke has given us great insight into the plan and purpose of God through silence and has awakened in us a thirst and hunger for seeing and hearing the purpose of God.

### I. Luke's preface and the introduction of John the Baptist and Jesus

A. Preface: Luke carefully builds on precedents (1:1-4)

B. Infancy narrative: Forerunner and Fulfillment (1:5-2:40)

#### 1. Announcement to Zechariah (1:5-25)

a. The political, religious and cultural setting into which John and Jesus were born

b. The priestly service and the breaking of silence – "Now while he was serving" (1:8)

c. A question of doubt and a declaration of silence (1:18-25)

(1) A request for a sign and the relief of meeting Gabriel (1:18-20)

- "How shall I know this?"

- Zechariah's reasoning is accurate and sound

LESSON ONE: It is a good thing to ask questions of the Lord in order to understand His Word, grow in grace and know more of Him.

It is never appropriate to question or doubt God's goodness or right to do as He pleases with His creatures.

(2) A statement of absolute reliability and awesome certainty (1:19-20)

- "I am Gabriel"

- "who stands in the presence"

- "sent to speak to you"

LESSON TWO: It is an awesome thing that God would send Gabriel to reveal His purpose to Zechariah.

It is beyond awesome that God Himself would come in the flesh and accomplish that purpose by redeeming His elect bride!

(3) The people outside waiting and wondering (1:21)

- "waiting" – needing a word from God

- "wondering" – began to be filled with terror. What has happened?

LESSON THREE: This is the appropriate attitude and demeanor of worship.

All of life is worship!

(4) Zechariah's appearance and inability to speak (1:22-23)

- He came out different than he went in

- Unable to speak

- Went home after his service

LESSON FOUR: Sometimes it may take being struck mute and deaf to communicate properly the wonder and power of God.

LESSON FIVE: How critical it is to finish our service, no matter our vocation!

(5) Elizabeth conceives and hides away (1:24-25)

LESSON SIX: Great blessings demand great responsibility (lifestyle of repentance) and great sacrifice.