

December 13, 2021

[Luke 1:18-25](#)

Do you sometimes sit and contemplate that you have it too good? That life is going so well and easy that you are just waiting for a shoe to drop? It seems easy to pray for mercy and grace when life seems overwhelming, and circumstances are murky and chaotic. But how often do we take the time to praise our Heavenly Father when we are having our prayers answered and for the joy He is providing?

Luke 1:18-25 is a microcosm of this view. Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayers of becoming pregnant and having their first child are answered after years of heartbreak trying to get pregnant. Not only are they answered, but this gift is personally delivered by one of God's personal angels, Gabriel! What does Zechariah do when he hears this incredible news? He doubts! Immediately, Gabriel, who stood in the presence of God himself, takes away Zechariah's ability to speak. I am imagining this was a blessing for Zechariah so he wouldn't spread his doubts, worries, and fears on Elizabeth, their family, and his congregation. Perhaps not coincidentally, as soon as Elizabeth becomes pregnant, she goes into seclusion. Although this was fairly common at the time due to high rates of pregnancy complications and given the fact she was older than typical mothers and barren until that point, (1), she was not joyful and appreciative of this amazing blessing.

In verse 25, Elizabeth finally seeks to realize her answered prayers when she proclaims, "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children." At this point in time, the nation of Israel wondered if God would ever provide a Messiah.

Well, we now know the importance of the child born to Zechariah and Elizabeth and how he prepared the way for our Savior! I hope this Advent season you (and I!) will find true faith and joy in the birth of Jesus. He is there regardless of our situation and disposition.

Even when prayers are answered, why do we still doubt?

Jesus, thank you for coming into this world to bring us joy and hope and may we celebrate Your birth in real faith!

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