

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL

6 December 2020

Text: Luke 1

Subject: "Because you did not believe"

INTRODUCTION

1. Zacharias: A quick profile

- a) He was a priest Luke 1:5a
- b) His wife, Elizabeth, was from the line of Aaron Luke 1:5b

2. Description of both husband and wife

- a) Righteous before God Luke 1:6a
- b) Walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless Luke 1:6b

3. Family

- a) They were advanced in years
- b) They were childless
- c) Elizabeth was barren Luke 1:7

A SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE ANGEL GABRIEL

1. Zacharias was in the temple

- a) In the order of his division
- b) His lot to offer incense in the Temple Luke 1:8-9
- c) Multitude of people was praying outside Luke 1:10

2. Visit of an angel of the Lord

- a) He appeared to Zacharias Luke 1:11
- b) On the right side of the altar of incense Luke 1:11

3. Reaction of Zacharias

- a) He was troubled

b) He felt fear Luke 1:12

A WORD FROM THE ANGEL GABRIEL

1. Do not be afraid, Zacharias Luke 1:13

a) Fear was addressed

b) His name was known to the angel

2. Encouraging personal words

a) His prayer was heard

i) For the nation

ii) For himself

b) Elizabeth will bear a son Luke 1:13

i) He is to be called John

ii) Personal joy would be experienced Luke 1:14a

3. The conception of John explained

a) Many will rejoice at his birth Luke 1:14b

b) He will be great in the sight of the Lord Luke 1:15a

c) And shall drink neither wine nor strong drink Luke 1:15b

d) He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit
even from his mother's womb Luke 1:15c

4. The ministry of John in the future

a) He will turn many of the children of Israel
to the Lord their God Luke 1:16

b) He will go before Him
in the spirit and power of Elijah Luke 1:17a

c) He will turn the hearts...
The disobedient to the wisdom of the just Luke 1:17b

d) To make ready a people prepared for the Lord Luke 1:17c

THE CONVERSATION OF ZACHARIAS WITH THE ANGEL GABRIEL

1. Doubt of Zacharias expressed

“How shall I know this?

For I am an old man, and my wife is well-advanced in years?”

Luke 1:18

a) Age cited

i) Himself

ii) Elizabeth

b) How could this word of the angel be true?

2. Answer of the angel Gabriel

a) Identity of the angel made known

“I am Gabriel

who stands in the presence of God”

Luke 1:19a

b) Mission of Gabriel

“And was sent to speak to you

And bring you these glad tidings”

Luke 1:19b

3. Rebuke of the angel Gabriel

a) Discipline

“But behold, you will be mute

and not able to speak until the day

these things take place”

Luke 1:20a

b) Reason for this discipline

“Because you did not believe my words

Which will be fulfilled in their own time”

Luke 1:20b

WAITING FOR THE RE-APPEARANCE OF ZACHARIAS

1. The people waited

2. They marveled that he lingered so long in the temple

Luke 1:21

EMERGENCE OF ZACHARIAS

1. When he came out, he could not speak to them

Luke 1:22a

2. They perceived that he had seen a vision

Luke 1:22b

3. He beckoned to them and remained speechless Luke 1:22c

4. He departed to his own house Luke 1:23

THE PREGNANCY OF ELIZABETH

1. Elizabeth conceived Luke 1:24a

2. She hid herself for 5 months Luke 1:24b

3. The words of Elizabeth

a) "Thus the Lord has dealt with me

b) In the days when He looked on me

c) To take away my reproach among people" Luke 1:25

LESSONS TO LEARN

1. The life of Zacharias

a) Righteous

b) Blameless

But these things do not tell us about the state of his personal faith!

2. The real state of faith of Zacharias

a) He had doubts that were strong

b) He could not find the faith to overcome his doubts

3. The rebuke and discipline of Zacharias

a) He would be struck dumb

b) He would not be able to speak till the words of the Lord were fulfilled

4. Our challenge

a) To deal with our doubts

b) To check our personal faith

c) To be rebuked/ disciplined if needs be to regain faith