

INTRODUCTION

- * Two weeks ago we began to consider the events surrounding the birth of John.
- * In Luke chapter 1 we have seen that Zacharias and Mary each were visited by the angel Gabriel with the message that God was going to bless them and use them in fulfilling His redemptive plan. Zacharias responded with doubt and wanted a sign to validate the message. Gabriel told him that because he doubted, he would be mute until John was born. Mary, on the hand, received the message with fear and submitted willingly to God's desire in her life.
- * Two weeks ago we began to consider the events surrounding the birth of John by considering The Visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Another miracle occurred when the two women with miraculous pregnancies met! The approximately sixth month old "fetus" in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy at presence of the less-than-a-month old fetus in Mary's womb! Elizabeth additionally recognized Mary as "The mother of my Lord!" As a result, Mary praised the mighty, holy and merciful God for scattering the proud, filling the hungry, and remembering His mercy (khesed) to the nation of Israel.
- * Today, we conclude this section by seeing the fulfillment of Gabriel's promise to Zacharias at the birth and naming of John.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE VISIT OF MARY (v. 39-56)****A. The Jubilation of John (v. 39-45)**

1. JOHN LEAPED FOR JOY AT THE PRESENCE OF JESUS!
2. ELIZABETH SPOKE WITH JOY AT THE PRESENCE OF MARY! ... ("The mother of my Lord!")

B. The Exaltation of Mary (v. 46-56)

1. HER RECOGNITION OF HER PRIVILEGE/HONOR
2. HER PRAISE OF YHWH
 - a. For Who He Is: *mighty... He is holy ...He is merciful ... to those who fear Him*
 - b. For What He Has Done: *He has scattered the proud ... He has filled the hungry ... He has helped Israel ... in remembrance of His mercy (khesed!)*

II. THE UNMUTING OF ZACHARIAS**A. The Naming of John (v. 57-66)**

1. THE TESTIMONY OF THE BIRTH (v. 57-58)
2. THE TESTIMONY OF THE NAME (v. 59-66)
 - a. The I _____ of the Crowd (v. 59)
 - b. The I _____ of Elizabeth (v. 60-61)
 - c. The I _____ of Zacharias (v. 62-64)
 - d. The R _____ of the Crowd (v. 65-66)

B. The Blessing of YHWH (v. 67-80)

1. THE R _____ OF HIS PEOPLE
 - a. The P _____ of Redemption (v. 69)
 - i. *ACCORDING TO THE MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS*
 - ii. *DELIVERING US FROM OUR ENEMIES*
 - b. The P _____ of Redemption (v. 72-75)
 - i. *TO P _____ TO THE FATHERS (Psalm 98:3)*
 - ii. *TO R _____ HOLY COVENANT (Genesis 12:3)*
 - iii. *TO D _____ THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES (Hebrews 2:14-15)*

In Order That we might serve Him:

beginning with ...

2. THE R _____ OF SIN (v. 76-80) ... involving ...
 - a. The Ministry of John
 - i. *TO P _____ THE WAY OF Y _____ (cf. Isaiah 40:3)*
 - ii. *TO P _____ THE WAY OF P _____ (cf. Isaiah 59:8)*
 - b. The Mercy of God
 - i. *TO P _____ THE R _____ (cf. Luke 1:77; 3:3; 4:18; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 5:31; 10:43; 13:38)*

INTROSPECTION

- * Do you honestly trust God to complete the work that He began in you?
- * Are you submitting to that work, or resisting it?
- * Are you faithfully proclaiming the message of redemption to those you meet?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How can we better assist one another to boldly proclaim the message of redemption and reconciliation?