

God is still speaking,

⁵ 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. ⁶ Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ 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 from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Lk 1: 5-17



sermon notes

Our Christmas Family

John knew **Christmas** was not His birthday

"The people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah.

One who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals." Luke 3:15-16

John united the Past with the **Present**

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Is 43:19

- Interpret the Story of God (see Matthew 11:8-10)
- Challenges the Complacent (see Luke 3:8)
- Offer a New Vision for Life (see 2 Corinthians 1:4)

John spoke with **conviction** and **urgency**

"The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Luke 3:9

Is John part of your spiritual heritage?

Are we **God's** People? (confident)

Are we **Worshipping** People? (not worthy to untie his sandals)

Are we **Passionate** People? (committed vs passive)

Are we **Adventurous** People? (risk takers vs conformity)



"Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught." Col. 2:7

"Opportunity knocks at the strangest times. It's not the time that matters But how you answer the door." Steve Gray

SUNDAY

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10)

MONDAY

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

TUESDAY

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

WEDNESDAY

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)

THURSDAY

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)

FRIDAY

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

SATURDAY

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)