

unexpected

four unexpected
christmas stories

Zechariah
Herod
Mary
Simeon



Part 1 Zechariah's Song

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

Advent - Hope, Peace, Love, Joy

"Biblical hope isn't optimism based on the odds. It's a choice to wait for God to bring about a future that is as surprising as a crucified man rising from the dead. Christian hope looks back to the risen Jesus in order to look forward." Tim Mackie

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:15-16

1. A Fulfilled Promise

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. Psalm 18:2

Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. I will clothe his enemies with shame, but his head will be adorned with a radiant crown. Psalm 132:17

2. The Purpose of Salvation

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness... But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. Romans 6:20,22

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

3. John Will Prepare the Way for the Messiah

"Here are the dying echoes of this song: and very beautiful are these closing notes—like the setting sun, shorn indeed of its noon-tide radiance, but skirting the horizon with a wavy and quivering light, as of molten gold—on which the eye delights to gaze, till it disappears from the view. The song passes not here from Christ to John, but only from Christ direct, to Christ as heralded by his Forerunner."

Brown, D., Fausset, A. R., & Jamieson, R.

I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:1

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven."

1 Peter 1:10-12.

Questions to consider this week:

1. How would you define the biblical idea of hope?
2. Do you see silence and solitude as a necessary aspect of your faith?
3. What time can you set aside for silence and solitude this week?
4. What can you learn about God from the story of Zechariah?
5. Is it possible for you to "prepare the way" for Jesus in the lives of people you know?



Advent Resources:

Bible Project - Video Word Series on Advent

Desiring God - 25 Devotional Readings for Advent (Good News of Great Joy)

The Gospel Coalition - Advent Music Playlist & Additional Resources

Biola University - The Interactive Advent Calendar

Awana - Family / Children Advent Resources