

## I. Intro

## A. Last week, we talked about the unexpected nature of advent

1. 1st advent – unbelieving priest and faith-filled little girl
2. 2nd advent – a great falling away and a faithful remnant with full lamps

## B. This week, we continue our look at advent in Luke 1:39-80

1. The story keeps a focus on Mary and Zechariah
2. However, this time Zechariah is different

## II. Text

**A. Luke 1:39-45**

1. After hearing the news from Gabriel, Mary visited Elizabeth [MAP]
  - a) Women greet each other – Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit
  - b) Elizabeth makes a proclamation
    - (1) Mary is blessed for believing
    - (2) Elizabeth also believes (vs 43)
    - (3) Unborn John believes and rejoices
2. *This moment speaks volumes about advent*
  - a) *At the 1st advent – the people are marked with belief, confession, and joy*
  - b) *As we prepare for the second advent – we should mirror this atmosphere*
    - (1) *Make a habit of running to God's people, not the world*
    - (2) *Join the atmosphere of proclaiming goodness and truth, not spreading lies*
    - (3) *Let your life be marked by gratitude and joy, not complaints and sarcasm*
  - c) *This living room scene is a foreshadow of the advent church*
    - (1) *Is it an accurate picture? If not, what can you do about it?*
3. *One final note that I must make before we continue*
  - a) *Behold John – he is an unborn child and found leaping for joy*
  - b) *Before birth, John discerns his purpose and position in relation to God*
  - c) *Don't think for a moment that an unborn child is not a human*
    - (1) *Babylon has robbed babies in the womb of their humanity*
    - (2) *But, scripture teaches a different message – what will you believe?*

**B. Luke 1:46-56**

1. Mary responds to Elizabeth with a song of praise – The Magnificat
  - a) The song has specific declarations:
    - (1) God looks on the humble and resists the proud
    - (2) God elevates the humble and humiliates the proud
    - (3) God satisfied the hungry with good things and dismisses the greedy
    - (4) God remembers His covenants and fulfills them in His time
  - b) Song is very familiar if you remember our study in 1 Samuel 2:1-10
    - (1) Hannah prayed for a child, God answered (Samuel), and she sang a song
    - (2) Both songs – exalt God, rejoice in salvation, declare the holiness of God, speak of humility/pride, poor/rich, hungry/full, and God's faithfulness
2. *Why is this connection important?*
  - a) *At the 1st advent, people knew their Bible!*
  - b) *During the 2nd advent, people need to know their Bible!*
  - c) *When God moves or you get squeezed in trials – Bible needs to come out!*

**C. Luke 1:57-66**

1. This section is so good because it reveals an important aspect of advent
  - a) Advent is marked by transformation!
    - (1) When we first met Zechariah, he was filled with unbelief
    - (2) 9 months later – he is changed man
  - b) Conversation about naming the child reveals Zechariah's heart
    - (1) Culture said "You always name the child after dad or grandpa"
    - (2) Zechariah is choosing to follow God's word rather than cultural norms
    - (3) "His name is John" is Zechariah saying "I stand with God, not culture"
2. What brought about this change? – I suspect it was connected to not speaking
  - a) *You can learn a lot if you stop talking so much*
  - b) *You can learn a lot when walking through trials*
  - c) *Sometimes you don't know how much you'll learn until the trial is over*
3. Let's see what Zechariah learned now that his trial is over

**D. Luke 1:67-80**

1. What did Zechariah learn?
  - a) He learned about the unexpected AND transformative ways God works
  - b) God took a religious, ritualistic, unbelieving man and changed his life
  - c) God took Zechariah's voice and replaced it with God's voice
  - d) Unbelief was replaced with bold declarations of God's faithfulness
  - e) Zechariah went from "how can this be" to "this child will be God's holy prophet"
2. *This moment also speaks volumes about advent*
  - a) *In this first advent you have a changed man*
  - b) *During this second advent, God is looking to change men*
  - c) *He is looking at priests of the home and asking:*
    - (1) *Do you believe?*
    - (2) *Will you surrender your voice for my voice?*
    - (3) *Will you trade your ways for my ways?*

## III. Conclusion

- A. This is why I love advent so much!
  1. Our story began in a dark time for Israel – unbelief and religion everywhere
  2. One man prays and God answers – the result is total transformation everywhere
  3. *If this is the first advent, wrap your arms around the second!*
    - a) *Are you tired of the way things are?*
    - b) *Are you tired of the religion and darkness and sorrow?*
    - c) *Are you tired of the stale Bible reading and shallow expressions of faith?*
- B. *Here is what you do – PRAY!*
  1. *Pray God will invade your life and change things*
  2. *Pray God will bring joy to your work and ignite your faith*
  3. *Pray God will bless His church and their gathering together*
  4. *Pray God will end sorrow and unbelief in your life*
  5. *Pray God will remove your voice and give you His*
- C. *Advent is a season of transformation – and the first step is to pray*