



12/22/25

*Luke 1:57-66*

*It's been 9 months since Gabriel met Zechariah at the altar of incense, the place where he as the priest burned incense to represent the prayers of the people... the place Gabriel told him, "Your prayers have been heard." I just think that's so cool. It's been 9 months since Zechariah asked for a sign in order to believe, ignoring the sign of an angel standing in front of him, but was given the sign of silence. For 9 months, Zechariah had been unable to utter a sound. It's been 9 months since the Lord opened Elizabeth's womb so that she who was barren had now carried a baby in her body. "Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son." Through Gabriel, God said that Elizabeth would have a son... and she did. When God says it, it is.*

*This was a time of celebration. Neighbors and relatives heard of God's great mercy in allowing Elizabeth to have a baby. The Greek transliteration says that God had magnified His mercy, His compassion, to Elizabeth. All those years without a child, God knew He was going to give Zechariah and Elizabeth a baby. What seemed like a forever wait with a hopeless end was just a "not yet." Why didn't He tell them sooner? When He saw Elizabeth's tears and the cruel looks of those who judged her as unworthy for all those years, did He want to tell her His secret? But He didn't want to spoil the surprise. So instead, He just kept reminding Zechariah and Elizabeth, "Trust Me. Lean on Me. Wait for Me."*

*This is an important lesson for me. God's purposes are always way bigger than anything I can imagine. His purposes are kingdom minded. Sometimes He says yes to my prayers. Sometimes He says no. And sometimes He says, "just wait." I can't hear His voice, so I won't always know the answer. But in every case, I can trust that all His plans are good. If He says yes, it's good.*

*If He says no, He's protecting me from something I can't understand. If He says not yet, He's got a bigger plan. The question is, will I trust Him for whatever He chooses? O Lord, please make it so in me.*

*On the 8th day, as the law commanded, everyone came together to circumcise the baby. This was also the day he would receive his name. It would have been customary for them to name this child Zechariah Jr. after his dad. Apparently, the relatives were a little pushy. This is what his name should be! Mary said, "No. His name will be John" (which means, "God is gracious." Yes, He is).*

*The people looked puzzled at Elizabeth... "Maybe your hormones are messing with your mind. John isn't even a family name in any way." So they turned to Zechariah and made signs to him, as if to say, "C'mon, Zechariah. Tell her she's wrong... however you can communicate to her."*

*I always think it's funny that they made signs to John... He didn't lose his hearing. He just couldn't talk. Why did they make signs? Hahaha.*

*John reached for a writing tablet. He wrote, "His name is John." The people wondered at his statement... they marveled. "What is going on? This is weird."*

*But the most exciting thing was what came next. As soon as Zechariah wrote, "His name is John," his mouth opened, his tongue loosened, and sound came from his mouth for the first time in over 9 months. What did he say? Did he say, "It's about time! I was tired of not talking!" Did he say, "Why did God have to be so hard on me?" No. The first words that came from Zechariah's mouth were blessings to God.*

*Well... when someone claims to have seen an angel and then can't speak for the next 9 months... and then opens his mouth and speaks blessings to God... the onlookers can't help but be in awe. That's exactly what happened. Zechariah spoke blessings. The people were in awe. News spread.*

*All the people wondered, "What then will this child be?" They knew he had to be pretty significant for the purposes of the Lord in light of the circumstances surrounding his birth. The only thing they knew for sure was, "the hand of the Lord was with him."*

*O Lord... that was all just for the man who would point to the light... let alone the*

*circumstances that pointed to Jesus at His birth. Please help me to be in awe... not to just read the words and move on.*

*Thank You for Your surprises. No matter what comes, it is never a surprise to You. That gives me confidence, comfort, and security. I want to be like Mary who believed the angel right away... but I'm probably a little more like Zechariah. Please help me, though, like Zechariah, to always... eventually... turn to You in faith. Help me to trust that whether You say yes, no, or not yet, You do everything with a good, loving, perfect plan. Not my will, but Yours be done.*