Luke

**Title**: “His name is John”

**We are Looking at Lukes gospel. Last week I mentioned that Luke had a sincere interest in those that were outcasts, those that were not the popular or the culturally accepted. Luke saw that Jesus made those in the margins and on the fringes significant. Like an investigative journalist he tracked down these stories. Luke also wanted to capture these moments of transformation where people were getting set free, like really changed! Loke, those intersections in life where humanity meets divinity, where the supernatural meets the natural. I love how Luke a gentile emphasizes that Jesus Christ is in the business of bringing freedom. He is in the business of releasing His Kingdom (God’s royal rule over humanity and defeating any power that may try and claim or govern human hearts and minds.)**

As we have learned Luke starts his gospel with these birth stories of both John and Jesus, often referred to as the Lukan infancy narratives. I have intentionally been spending time in these birth stories as they reveal themes that we see throughout the rest of Luke, and acts like, spiritual leadership, influence of women, prophecy, spiritual freedom, conflict, salvation of God extended to gentiles.

**Intro- I’d like to look at again, the story of Elizabeth and Zacharia in Luke 1:57-66**

**This time I’d like to change perspectives and analyze it a little closer and try to see some deeper meaning that we could take away and apply for our own understanding**

**Story- I was travelling and just landed in S. Korea for a ministry trip. After about a 16 hr flight I was exhausted and needed to find a bathroom quick. So, as I’m navigating the crowd in search of the bathrooms Im also taking in the airport culture in Korea. I don’t read Korean, I don’t speak Korean but thank God some symbols are universal.**

**How did I miss that? I really was looking and thought I was in the right place!**

**We don’t see what we don’t see , just like , we don’t know what we don’t know.**

**Lk 1:13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will [**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lk%201%3A13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24907a)**]give him the name John….. vs 18 “How will I know this for certain”**

**Zachariah did not have any file to draw from – he had no confidence in this new thing the Lord was doing. “Ive never done this before, this is not what Ive done before, this is not how we’ve trained, this is not what I was taught to believe”**

**Luke 1:57-66 Now the time [**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A57-66&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24951a)**]had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. 58Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had [**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A57-66&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24952b)**]displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.**

**59And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, [**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A57-66&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24953c)**]after his father. 60But his mother answered and said, “No indeed; but he shall be called John.” 61And they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name.” 62And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. 63And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, “His name is John.” And they were all astonished. 64And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. 65Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. 66All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.**

**Principle # 1 The Lord always moving in the direction of fullness in His will. (meaning, purpose and calling)**

* **This is way more than how well we think our lives are going or how difficult things maybe**
* **In this story we may see Zachariah and Elizabeth faithfully serving doing right…**

**Lk 1:6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.**

* **Things maybe very good or not – but the Lord always has more for us**

**Question – What more does the Lord want for your life? What is He asking of you to bring you to the next place of fulness or completeness?**

**Our perceptions are real – Story about locking a guy in the closet ..**

* **Remove the lie**
* **Replace it with truth**

**Principle # 2 God will always take us out of our depth and change our perspective to bring us to something new**

**Lk. 1:18 Zacharias said to the angel, “How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in [**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24912a)**]years.”**

* **God wants to do something new but Zacharias is not able to see outside of his own traditions, customs, norms, culture. It was his fixed position that caused him to stumble**
* **We cannot discern spiritual truth from a natural footing. “How can I be sure”?**
* **So, the Lord caused Zacharias to become mute for 9 months (He literally removed him from the places and things of influence over him – he was set apart for the purposes of the Lord.**
* **What happened during those 9 months of silence? (quit talking – so you can hear me)**

**Question – Have you ever found yourself in a valley of death experience? Do you have any fixed positions that you need to let go of?**

**Hosea 2:14 I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her**

**Job 13:15 Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.**

**Dark night of the soul. “In the ground time”**

**Story of the Donkey!**

**Principle # 3 God will wait to bring fullness to you until you align yourself with His way.**

* **He will withhold His blessing until we can clearly articulate what God has revealed in the secret place in our heart.**
* **He uses difficulty to re-write a new narrative that we then speak aloud…**
* **Don’t be afraid of the dark places – lean in**

**Jer. 1:11 The word of the Lord came to me saying, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” And I said, “I see a rod of an [**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jer.%201&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18958b)**]almond tree.” 12Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am [**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jer.%201&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18959c)**]watching over My word to perform it.”**

* **John is a forerunner spirit – It’s the principle of preparing for fullness**
* **John is more than a man, more than an infancy narrative – it’s a spirit of preparation.**

**Say this with me – It is John!**

### Ministry questions

* Do you want more of the Lord in your life?
* Do you need a new perspective on your current struggle?
* Are you willing to say yes to His process today.