

“A People Prepared For the Lord”

New Hope Community Church

November 25th, 2018 / Luke 1:1-25

Life Group Meeting

Luke 1:1-25

A. A Purpose For Writing (1-4)

1. The author — Luke

- A Gentile **physician** ▪ Companion of the Apostle **Paul**
- A historian of **strict** investigation

2. The reader — Theophilus

- Name means **friend** of God
- Luke’s address implies he may be an official **ruler**

B. Luke Begins With God Breaking His Silence

1. God had not spoken for **400** years since the prophet Malachi

2. Zacharias & Elizabeth were models for what **pleases** God (5-11)

- People of faith who lived their lives in **full** devotion to God
- People of sorrow because of living in a **fallen** world

► **QUESTION #1:** Why do bad things happen to the people of God. Sometimes it seems as though our faith is unnoticed by God.

► **PRINCIPLE #1:** What really matters is that we have lived our lives according to biblical faith — believing God and living according to His ways.

3. God’s message speaks of His **miraculous** intervention (11-22)

- The **messenger** was from God
- The **plan** that would unfold was dependent upon God
- The **name** to be used speaks of the gracious nature of God
- The **enabling** will come by the Holy Spirit of God
- The **result** will be God fulfilling His 400 year old promise

► **QUESTION #2:** What were Zacharias and the people of God outside the Temple praying about?

► **PRINCIPLE #2:** When we pray, God would have us to be watchful for His answer, even with a willingness to be the instrument of His answer.

C. God’s Message of Preparation Requires A Work Within the Heart

1. Wayward fathers beginning to **prioritize** their children

2. Hardened hearts **agreeing** with the way of the righteous

3. These would come from responding to John’s message to **repent**

Personal Reflection

- What great work of God will I ask Him for during this season?

- Am I willing to be used of God as He brings about the answer?

- To prepare, let us be people of **righteousness**, responding in **faith**.

QUESTIONS

1) Read Luke 1:11-20

2) After the prophet Malachi, God remained silent in Israel for over 400 years. Why? Discuss the importance of God’s last command and His last promise to Israel in Malachi 4:4-6.

3) Sometimes it may seem like God is silent when we pray. What can we learn from Zacharias and Elizabeth that greatly pleases God even though He seems unresponsive to our prayers?

4) Given the circumstances in Israel, what do you think the people and Zacharias were praying about (vs 10,13)? What kinds of things do you find yourself praying about given the times in which we live?

5) Gabriel’s message spoke of God’s miraculous intervention in the midst of very dark times. Why do you think the Lord judged Zacharias so harshly for his unbelief?

6) Can you think of a time when you truly struggled to believe a message from God (either from His Word or something you received while praying)?

7) Verse 17 talks about the ministry of John to prepare people for the Lord. What do you think the significance is of the two things that would happen to people as they prepared for the Lord? (see C. 1,2)

8) Tonight as we pray for each other, would anyone like to share a great work of God that you have decided to ask Him for during this Christmas season?