

Sermon Application Questions

Luke

1:57-66

1. Retell the story of Luke 1:57-66 in your own words.
2. If you had to summarize this story in a sentence, what would you say?
3. We might be tempted to overlook this story. Yet Luke takes a lot of time to relay it to us. And when we compare it to Luke 2:21, we see that he does so purposefully. How much time does Luke spend with Jesus' naming in comparison with John's. What does that tell us about this story?
4. We want to think about possible purposes for taking so long to tell us all this. To discover that purpose, look at Luke 1:1-4. What does Luke say is the purpose of his gospel?
5. We can apply that purpose to this story. This story is to help us with certainty. But what is certainty? .
6. What do you think Luke wanted us to be certain about? Why is certainty important in the Christian life?
7. What do we mean when we say part of Luke's strategy for helping us become more certain is by showing us examples?
8. Who are the examples that Luke introduces us to in this first chapter? And what is the example he is giving us in this story?
9. Zechariah failed the first time he was confronted with the gospel. Why was it so hard for him to be certain? In other words, what did he have a hard time believing?
10. Here in this story, God gives Zechariah another chance. How does that encourage us?
11. What is the test to Zechariah's faith that he faces in this story?
12. Now let's think about what is happening in this story exactly. How is Elizabeth's giving birth surprising? How do her friends and neighbors respond?
13. What is good about their response?
14. Why is their response lacking? What do they not understand about this birth that they need to understand?

15. How was their ignorance about this dangerous for Zechariah and Elizabeth? What did they advise Zechariah and Elizabeth to do? Why would that have been wrong for them to do in this instance?
16. How does Elizabeth respond? How do the people respond to her?
17. If we say that the people are encouraging her to go along with cultural traditions rather than God's revelation, how do we face that same temptation today then? What are some examples of how people struggle with this temptation?
18. When the people continue to apply the pressure and talk to Zechariah, how does he respond?
19. What is the significance of the fact that he writes, 'his name is John.'
20. What was the reason Zechariah and Elizabeth were so insistent on naming their child John?
21. Are you following in Zechariah's footsteps when it comes to your neighbors and relatives? Because there are all kinds of people today who are giving us all kinds of advice that is not based on revelation but on cultural traditions, and they may have good intentions and they may love us, but they are ignorant of what God's Word teaches, and how are you responding to the pressure they are putting on you to compromise with what you know to be true?
22. What happens in Zechariah's life as a result of his faith? What happens in his community? Why do you think they wondered? Why do you think they were afraid?
23. We have many religious people in our day but who are ignorant about the gospel, and what will God use to wake them up, I think in essence it is something similar to what is happening with Zechariah, it will be God's people refusing to compromise with cultural pressures and blazing a new trail of obedience based on their faith in God's Word.