

Sermon Discussion Questions

Going Public

Luke 1:57-66

December 9, 2018

1. The section of Luke 1 that we covered on Sunday was when Elizabeth and Zacharias went public with what the Lord was doing in their lives. Give yourself a 1-10 rating on how public you are with your relationship with the Lord (10 being very public). Explain why you gave yourself that rating.
 - a. Have you ever experienced a person who was TMI with their faith (i.e., a bit obnoxious, too in your face, or they dominate the conversation with Too Much Information)? Share your experience and how it has impacted how public you are with your faith.
 - b. When telling others about Jesus and our relationship with Him, how can we be NEI (Not Enough Information)?
 - c. What hinders us from going public and how did the sermon help you to be more public with the Lord?

2. Jeremy asked us if we have known the Lord's mercy or kindness in our lives like Elizabeth was talking about (Luke 1:57-58). Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and express different ways you have experienced the Lord's mercy when you needed it.
 - a. How have you gone and shared with others about God's mercy in your life?

3. Reflecting on Luke 1:59 Jeremy expressed how the act of circumcision is both private and public. How is our faith both private and public? What are the benefits to having our faith be both?

4. It was out of the ordinary how Elizabeth and Zacharias were going to name their son "John" (Luke 1:59-63). What does the Lord call us to do that is out of the ordinary for our world today; or how does He call us to go against the grain? Do you have any stories of how you went against the grain for the Lord?

5. Upon reflecting on how Zacharias had all those months of not being able to talk, and then being able to, the first thing out of his mouth was praise of God (Luke 1:64). Jeremy suggested he was like a sponge—taking it all in, and finally he could wring out praise to the Lord. Do you feel like you are more of a sponge that is taking it all in, or more like a sponge in wringing it all out in helping others see why the Lord is so praise-worthy? Explain.
 - a. How can we find the right balance of receiving and giving for the sake of the Lord and His glory?

6. Jeremy highlighted the ripple effect that this whole scenario had on the surrounding community of Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1:65-66). What do you think our reputation is around Manitowoc County? How might we have a ripple effect where people will hear about "the hand of the Lord" working in us and through us?