

## **Men's Sunday School classes for December 1st and 8th**

Here are some questions for you to consider in your reading of Luke 1 and 2 for the classes:

### **Men's Sunday School class for December 1st**

#### **QUESTIONS ABOUT ZACHARIAS' AND SIMEON'S PERSONAL THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS (Luke 1-2)**

1) What do you think Zacharias was thinking and feeling in the following situations?

a) Seeing an angel and the angel making announcement to you, about something you had longed for, but had given up.

b) Not being able to speak when everybody is asking you what happened, especially when the loss of speech was due to your unbelief.

c) Having your older wife become pregnant fulfilling the angel's words, and her not wanting to tell anybody about it for months.

d) Having your "niece," Mary, come to your home with proclamations of praise and tell you she is going to be the mother of the Messiah, you normally the leader in the things of God, now just listening with almost no input to the discussion of two women.

e) Having your wife give birth to your son and naming him John, obeying the angel's instructions

2) What do you think Simeon was thinking and feeling in the following situations (assuming he is old when Jesus is brought to the temple)?

a) Being given a prophecy about the Messiah, apparently a long time before it is fulfilled.

b) Knowing you will not see the outcome of the prophecy.

#### **QUESTIONS ON ZACHARIAS AND SIMEON IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

As we look at the song of Zacharias in Luke 1, what are some things Zacharias seems to have had on his mind during the time he was told by the angel, (Zacharias would be mute until the birth of his son.)?

What parts of the Old Testament do you think Zacharias was studying or thinking about during this time?

Both Zacharias and Simeon have a part of their songs dedicated to salvation coming to the Gentiles.

Zacharias: "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Simeon: "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

Why do you think both of these men were thinking about the Gentiles and their salvation?

What do their prophetic announcements about the Gentiles have to do with the Lord's ministry and our study of Acts?

### **DOES GOD PUT US IN SITUATIONS OF BEING ABLE TO GIVE NO INPUT, OR HAVING TO WAIT, OR NOT SEEING SOMETHING FULFILLED?**

#### **December 8th class:**

Both Simeon and Zacharias needed to wait. For Simeon, he, literally, needed to wait on the Lord...to be born. For Zacharias, he needed to wait for his son to be born before he could speak. For the December 8 class, we will continue to look at Zacharias and Simeon as we discuss how we are doing in the waiting area?

1. What conclusions can we draw about Zachariah from his answer to the angel's announcement? (Luke 1:18)
2. How would you have spent the months of silence that Zechariah experienced as he was awaiting the birth of his son?
3. The angel says to Zacharias "Your prayer has been heard." It seems the prayer has been that he and Elizabeth would have a child, a son. Why did God wait until Zacharias' later age to answer the prayer?
4. Why does God have us have "times of quiet" or even "mute" times in our lives when we have little to say? What is God's purpose(s) in those times of our lives?
5. Compare the waiting by Zacharias and Simeon. What are the similarities and differences in the waiting by the two men?
6. Simeon looked for the Lord throughout his lifetime. What does this say to us about "looking for the Lord" in our lives?
7. How can we strengthen our realization that God is in control of the events of our life?