



Zechariah – JOY

Luke 1:8-20,57-66; Isaiah 40:3-5

When someone finds joy in something, it is hard to hide it. The things that bring you joy are the things that you want to share with the world. It is just in our nature to want others to share that happiness with us. It is no wonder then that we find that in Scripture, that God is eager to share the joy of Christ's birth, even before it was time for Him to arrive. The incarnation, which is Jesus's birth or God coming to the earth as a human, is the greatest gift that has ever been given. You can almost sense God's excitement for the hope, peace, joy, and love that would come through His arrival.

Key Question: How will you allow the joy that God provides to flow through you?

READ Isaiah 40:3-5.

God promises there will be a time of preparation before Christ's birth. There will be a straightening and a leveling that will take place, ensuring that the glory of God in Jesus would be made available to all people. Preparation is key to fully enjoying any great event. There is no desert, no mountain, no valley, no rugged place that will stand in the way of the revelation of Christ. In Jesus Christ, joy has come to the world. Since we are recipients of that great joy, we can tell it everywhere we go!

READ Luke 1: 8-20



One of the greatest joys of the Christmas season is the opportunity we are given to prepare the way for others to see Jesus for who He really is. The most joyful people during this time of year are the ones who have experienced the hope, joy, and peace of God in their lives because of their trust in Jesus. The way they speak to others, the way they serve others, the way they treat others are all a means of preparing the way for others to meet Jesus.

This joy is a commodity that is in short supply in our world. The economy. A global pandemic. Violence in our streets. No peace in our homes. There are people all around us who are miserable. They are heartbroken over the pain of life. They are hopeless in the face of suffering. Now is the time for sharing the joy of Jesus with the world. Even though the good news of a God who comes to us in the

flesh to rescue us may seem too good to be true, our response should be marked by deep faith and joy. When we trust God, we can share it with others.

In our reading, John's life is surrounded by joy, and that joy is in the Lord's work among them. Zechariah is still unable to speak, but he writes the name "John" in agreement. And upon his obedient pronouncement of the boy's name, he is once again able to speak. His first response is rejoicing, and he praises God. When the word spread about John's amazing birth and Zechariah's recovered speech, everyone over the Judean countryside was in awe and wondered what amazing things John would do with his life.

The grace that covered John's birth and life is the same grace that is given to us free of charge. We could never earn God's grace. It is a gift that is given to us through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. We should be people marked by joy because of this grace given to us. When we live our lives from this place of joy, our words are transformed into actions that spreads quickly and people are in awe of who He is... and His name is Jesus.