

## Faith: Weak but Fulfilled

Luke 1:18-25 Sunday AM, June 2, 2024

**Prelude – Scripture: Luke 1:5-25** (NASB95) In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. 8 Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. 11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. 12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. 14 “You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. 16 “And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. 17 “It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” 18 Zacharias said to the angel, “How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.” 19 The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 “And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.” 21 The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple. 22 But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and remained mute. 23 When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home. 24 After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, 25 “This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men.”

A couple with a need—they had no child, but don’t overlook the circumstances surrounding that need being addressed. Their need was addressed inside history. In the days of Herod, king of Judea. The need was addressed from the position of humility and reverence, a priest named Zacharias, who together with his wife Elizabeth lived in the fear of the Lord, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. And this humility included the work of worship and service among the people of God. he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. God’s answer to their need came in way that brought fear—Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. This put him in the position of needing reassurance—something from God—do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard—But the answer included not just the child, but instructions for that child as the child would NOT merely be for them and their purposes, but for God’s and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. 16 “And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God . . . so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” God, the giver is the focus—not the gift, and His will shows such power and care for His wandering people that all who hear should be humble and grateful as we worship His providential work. Church, Join creation and praise God. Don’t miss your specific part in praising God with your life in verses 4-5.

### \*Hymn #64: All Creatures of Our God and King

How would YOU respond to angel that scared you to death and then promised you the seeming impossible? Zacharias says, “How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.” Questions that seem normal for us, but the angel’s response shows that they showed weak faith. We will talk more about this, but think—what is the answer to weak faith? It is NOT in YOU. As was said yesterday at the wedding, guide your heart’s gaze away from yourself to God.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): He Will Hold Me Fast

### \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Revelation Song

**Scripture: Numbers 20:1–13, 23–29** (NASB95) Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there. 2 There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. 3 The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! 4 “Why then have you brought the LORD’S assembly into this wilderness, for us and our beasts to die here? 5 “Why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink.” 6 Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them; 7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 “Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink.” 9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; 10 and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?” 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. 12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” 13 Those were the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel contended with the LORD, and He proved Himself holy among them. 23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying, 24 “Aaron will be gathered to his people; for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the sons of Israel, because you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah. 25 “Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up to Mount Hor; 26 and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar. So Aaron will be gathered to his people, and will die there.” 27 So Moses did just as the LORD had commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. 28 After Moses had stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar, Aaron died there on the mountain top. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. 29 When all the congregation saw that Aaron had died, all the house of Israel wept for Aaron thirty days.

### Offering: \*Doxology:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain sang not only the choir, but the heavenly beings in Revelation—Jesus, the Lamb of God was worthy of honor and glory and blessing because He was the only One who could open the book containing the names of those purchased by God. Only Jesus could bring us back to God to be a kingdom and priests to our God. The choir’s song was filled with a Revelation 4 gaze at Jesus—His beauty, power, and majesty. If you value a relationship with this holy God, praise God for His holy plan to bring you to God through Jesus—which includes the answered prayer in our passage to bring John the Baptist as a forerunner for the Messiah. All Hail the King of Heaven!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): All Hail the King of Heaven

You may be seated. So Zacharias has a small setback of 9 months with no speech for an “understandable lack of faith.” But what about Moses and Aaron in our passage today? Wasn’t their “lack of faith” understandable as well? Didn’t they endure much more than most of us as they obediently followed God’s instructions as they led the people of God to the Promised Land? They hit the rock with their staff as they had been TOLD to do before, and they were forbidden to enter the Promised Land because of their disobedience because this time, they were to speak to the rock. Did you hear God’s response? “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” Their actions of unbelief/ disobedience resulted from a lack of treating God as holy. This should sober everyone of us as we think that sin is just normal for all of us. As Pastor Jahn prepares to preach, look to God as holy as we sing our submission to His will for His people.

### \*Hymn #377: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Message: Faith: Weak but Fulfilled Luke 1:18-25 \*Hymn #349: Trust and Obey \*Prayer