

▼ **Luke Sets The Stage - Part 4**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday January 28, 2024

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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ Welcome!

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ Transition

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The upper right QR code links to our notes.
- The QR code on the left links to our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are continuing our exploration of Luke 1.
- Before we get to our passage . . .

▼ **Feeding on the Life of Jesus**

- Are you “worded up”?
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 - 1/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in February (2/2 - 2/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in March (3/1 - 3/24)
- The Gospel of John in April (4/1 - 4/21)

▼ For January this means:

- Read Matthew 27 on January 27 (yesterday).
- Read Matthew 28 on January 28 (today).
- Matthew Completed January 29 (tomorrow).
- etc.

- As you read, write down any questions you have.

▼ Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?

- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.

▼ **Thoughts From Last Sunday**

▼ Recall Mary's powerful statement. From it we see that God is:

- overturning the proud
- taking care of the humble
- reversing injustice
- What are some practical ways that we can partner with God in these areas?

▼ **Video:**

- [Bible Project: Justice](#) (00:06:18)

▼ **More Thoughts From Last Sunday**

▼ How can we partner with God in reversing injustice and elevating the poor and humble?

- Bail reform
- Cutting the cost of phone calls to and from inmates
- Health care reform
- Voter access
- Service fee reform

▼ **Video:**

- [The Daily Show: Elon Musk's Billionaire Games - Between the Scenes](#) (00:04:19)

▼ **Luke 1:57-66**

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his

father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

- Remember from Luke 1:1-4 that Luke is giving us an orderly account based on careful investigation of information from eyewitnesses who were committed to the message.

▼ Setting

- It has been 400 years since the last prophetic word recorded in scripture.
- Zechariah (“God Remembers”)
- Elizabeth (“God Is My Promise”)

▼ Elizabeth gives birth to John.

- Her friends and family celebrate.
- Elizabeth is obedient to the naming instructions that Gabriel gave to Zechariah.
- Zechariah’s act of obedience results in the return of his speech.
- John’s birth to “goes viral”. There is tremendous “buzz” about John and his mission.

▼ **Luke 1:67-80**

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness

and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit ; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

- Which God are we dealing with? YHWH the God of Israel!
- He has redeemed Israel. - God fulfills his covenant with Abraham.
- Horn of salvation - The horn is a symbol of strength. God’s salvation comes with power.
- John is from the tribe of Levi, but he is the predecessor of someone from the house of David.
- All of this fulfills ancient prophetic words. Jesus will enter into an ancient and ongoing story.
- God is honoring his promise to Abraham.

▼ The coming of Jesus will:

- rescue Israel from their enemies.
- enable Israel to serve the Lord without fear.
- enable Israel to serve him in holiness and righteousness all their days.

▼ John will be a prophet of the Most High:

- He will prepare the way for the Lord.
- He will give Israel the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.
- God’s tender mercy is coming to bless those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

▼ **Jesus’ birth will change everything!**

- He will overturn the proud.
- He will take care of the humble.
- He will reverse injustice.
- He will rescue Israel.
- His Kingdom will never end.

▼ **Life Group**

▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

- **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

▼ Read through and reflect on each verse in Zechariah's prophecy.

- In what ways do you see the verse reflected in your own life?
- In what ways would you like to see the verse better reflected in your own life?
- How about in your life group as a whole?
- How about in our congregation as a whole?
- How about in God's church in general?

▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

- How is your group doing? Is anyone missing? Do they know you care?
- What are you doing to make your life group safe, healthy, and effective?
- Take turns working on your testimonies.
- Identify people you can reach for Jesus this week. Pray for them.



Luke Sets The Stage – Part 4

Sunday January 28, 2024



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Feeding on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)



Are you “worded up”?

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What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

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- The Gospel of John in April (4/1 – 4/21)



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)



For January this means:

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- etc.



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)



As you read, write down any questions you have.

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- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



Feeding on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



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Thoughts From Last Sunday



Recall Mary's powerful statement. From it we see that God is:

- overturning the proud
- taking care of the humble
- reversing injustice

What are some practical ways that we can partner with God in these areas?



Bible Project: Justice





More Thoughts From Last Sunday



How can we partner with God in reversing injustice and elevating the poor and humble?

- Bail reform
- Cutting the cost of phone calls to and from inmates
- Health care reform
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Elon Musk's Twitter Buy





Luke 1:57-66



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Birth of John



Remember from Luke 1:1-4 that Luke is giving us an orderly account based on careful investigation of information from eyewitnesses who were committed to the message.

Setting

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Luke 1:67-80 (1 of 2)



His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

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because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:



Luke 1:67-80 (2 of 2)



to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
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to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit ; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.



Birth of John (continued)



Which God are we dealing with? YHWH the God of Israel!
He has redeemed Israel. – God fulfills his covenant with Abraham.
Horn of salvation - symbol of strength. Salvation comes with power.
John is a Levite preparing the way for a descendant of David.
This fulfills ancient prophetic words. Jesus will enter an ongoing story.
God is honoring his promise to Abraham.



Birth of John (continued)



The coming of Jesus will:

- rescue Israel from their enemies.
- enable Israel to serve the Lord without fear.
- enable Israel to serve him in holiness and righteousness all their days.

John will be a prophet of the Most High:

- He will prepare the way for the Lord.
- He will give Israel the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

God's tender mercy is coming to bless those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.



Jesus Changes Everything



Jesus' birth will change everything!

- He will overturn the proud.
- He will take care of the humble.
- He will reverse injustice.
- He will rescue Israel.
- His Kingdom will never end.



Life Groups



Word - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

Read through and reflect on each verse in Zechariah's prophecy.

- In what ways do you see the verse reflected in your own life?
- In what ways would you like to see the verse better reflected in your own life?
- How about in your life group as a whole?
- How about in our congregation as a whole?
- How about in God's church in general?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- How is your group doing? Is anyone falling through the cracks?
- What are you doing to make your life group safe, healthy, and effective?
- Take turns working on your testimonies.
- Identify people you can reach for Jesus this week. Pray for them.



Announcements



How To Give

- Sunday Service January 28, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (1/31) 7pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) February 4, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (2/7) 7pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service February 11, 2024
- No Men's Bible Study Wed (2/14 - Valentine's Day)
- Churches Praying Together - Saturday (2/17) 7pm - Symphony Church
- Sunday Service February 18, 2024



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