



SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD

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Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Scripture: Luke 1:5-7; Luke 1:13

TITLE: Do You Remember?

Three of the most frightening words I think I can hear are “Did you remember?” Whenever I hear that from my wife, my immediate response is, “Did I remember what? What did I possibly not put on the calendar, or what did I not forget to pick up, or what did I forget to do?”

Do you have that kind of response when you hear those words, “Did you remember?” But remembering isn't always a moment for panic. I think most of the time, it's actually positive and even beneficial for our faith.

Here we are in the month of December, and that means, it's Christmas time. It's the season of Advent - a time where we remember and anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ - so it is time to remember God's faithfulness.

But do you ever ask God, “Do you remember?” Do you ever think that God may have forgotten your request? Your prayer?

I want to introduce you to one of my favorite people in the Christmas story in the Advent season. His name is Zechariah.

We meet Zechariah in Luke Chapter One, and this is what Luke says in verses 5-7 (ESV):

“In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.”

Now I don't know if you know this, but God puts a great deal of importance behind a person's name. Constantly throughout the Bible, people are named because of who they are, or who they will become. And Zechariah, his name means: God remembered.

As we meet Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, we know that they are walking blamelessly with God. They were both righteous. This doesn't mean that they were perfect, but it means that they were like Abraham - people saved by faith in the promises of God. But then, Luke throws in a very unusual detail, because he says Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children, and they were both advanced in years. In other words, they were old without children, and there was no way they could possibly have a child. And if you've read the Bible, you know that there is nothing in

the Bible that is there by chance, or is there to fill space. No, God remembers the prayers of His faithful.

That's why in Luke 1:13, an angel tells Zechariah, "[Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.](#)"

Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous. They walked with God, and they prayed to God. They prayed to God for the coming Messiah. When the world and the majority of Jewish people had moved on past waiting for the Messiah, they kept praying. They kept waiting, but they also knew, that the same God who had granted Abraham and Sarah a son could do the same for them. So, they kept praying. God heard their prayer, and He remembered them.

Who is this John that Elizabeth would carry? John the Baptist - the long-awaited messenger, who would prepare the way for the Messiah - Jesus Christ.

I don't know where you are today. I don't even know who you are today, but friend - God knows you, and He cares for you. God remembers you. And God remembers your prayers. We also know that the prayers of the righteous person accomplish many things.

My challenge to you today: never forgets that God hears, He cares, and He remembers. What He asks of you is to be faithful in walking with Him. Keep talking to Him. Keep following Him. He's still listening. And He still is remembering.