

God's unlikely choices part 2

A silent priest Luke 1:5-25 & 57-80

Learning from Zechariah's experience:

1. My silent prayers are heard.

"Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer." Luke 1:13

"Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress and the Lord hears my voice." Psalm 55:17

2. Be careful what you ask God for!

"Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son" Luke 1:13b

"Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." Luke 1:18

Compared with Mary's reaction, *"But how can this happen? I am still a virgin." Luke 1:34*

"The angel said, 'I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.'" Luke 1:20

3. My obedience to God's Word releases his power.

"He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, 'His name is John.'⁶⁴ Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

⁶⁵ Awe fell upon the whole neighbourhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, "What will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way." Luke 1:63-66

Other unlikely requests from God, Joshua (Joshua 6), Naaman (2 Kings 5:10), Gideon (Judges 7:2)

"If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their won strength." Judges 7:2

- **God chooses unlikely people** – mute priest, & you and me!
- **To carry out unlikely plans** – elderly couple to have a baby/march around city walls
- **To accomplish his purposes**
- **So that HE gets the glory and credit!**