

Rooted In Faith

McKendree Methodist Church

Message from the Pastor

December Sermon Series Week 3 Recap!

We are going to GO into the new year. Let's spend this time being Rooted in Faith and get ready to GO!

This past Sunday, we talked about Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zechariah, which aligns with our current study of the Gospel of Luke. We are reading one chapter a day in the month of December, and we will finish the Gospel on December 25th. If you miss a day, no worries; just read two the next day. See you on Sunday!



Let's look at four characters and how they responded in the Bible with the birth of Jesus and John!

Mary - Humble, Joyful Acceptance

Mary's faithful response should serve as a model for all of us. Just imagine the kind of results we might see if we ALWAYS responded to God's initiatives with the kind of gracious acceptance and submission that Mary exhibited. We can all learn from her example of "Gracious Acceptance!"

Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-56

Joseph - Honorable man - Doubt turned to being Noble - Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph accepts Jesus as His Son! He was asked to believe the unbelievable. Joseph was engaged to Mary (which at that time meant they acted like they were married for one year but did not live together, so a divorce was required). In the eyes of the community, Mary had committed adultery, which was a sin punishable by death (typically stoning). Joseph was afraid to take her as his wife because he would be admitting the child was his, and doing so would have brought him social disgrace and caused him to become religiously impure. No one would have wanted to associate with him for fear of becoming contaminated. This would also have had a direct impact on his carpentry business.

But—and this is a big but—once the angel came to him, Joseph not only said yes, but then he

stepped up, honored Mary, and became Jesus' earthly father. The social stigma and pressure did not matter once he was walking with God!

Zechariah - Doubt Turned to Silence

He should have responded to Gabriel's announcement by either praising God or saying nothing at all. When he instead said he thought maybe the angel had gotten the wrong guy, Gabriel made it clear that it's not very wise to belittle the Almighty's ideas. As a result of his unbelief, he spent the next nine months silent and unable to speak.

Now, before we get all judgy, how often do we respond in this way? How many times has the Holy Spirit moved you to action, and you resisted? "Oh, not me, God. No, you don't want me to go up and pray for this person I don't know. No, you don't want me to become a pastor. No, you don't want me to speak up for Christ in this moment. No, you don't..." Fill it with whatever you have hesitated to heed God's call.

Here is the important point: if we are not careful, we will miss the blessing. God is ready and willing to bless us and our lives. But too often, we hesitate! And remember, Zechariah was a devoted follower of God. He was a noble servant. Remember, he was at the temple doing what he was supposed to do in serving God! Year after year, he served as a priest in Judea. It is important to note that he faithfully served year after year. This wasn't just some random non-believer who doubted this blessing. He was chosen because of his faith, yet he let his doubt overtake him in the moment, and God said, "Cool. Have it your way; you are going to be silent, but I still love you enough to bless you and your wife, and in turn, all My people!"

He was a faithful follower, and this was demonstrated by going to Jerusalem twice a year for his group's rotation as Temple priests for the week. Again, a faithful believer, but still doubted. Even with an angel speaking to him, he doubted. But what I take away is the fact that he lived to serve God and did so nobly. God said, "I am still going to bless you. In spite of momentary unbelief, I am going to bless you!"

Zechariah's song is a prophecy!

Elizabeth - Humble Faith

She responded, "How kind the Lord is! He has taken away my disgrace of having no children!" With all four of these characters in the Bible, God was attracted not to self-assurance but to humble weakness! All four of them did not care what everyone said about them once they were walking with God!

The joy and celebration they all had was the spirit in them, knowing God was with them. It is not easy to do the right thing, and people may talk, but when you know you are doing God's will in your life, you will sing a song like Mary or a prophecy like Zechariah. Doing what's right in the eyes of the Lord is not always easy, but the strength you receive is from Him and not your own! You will be forever changed when you put your life in God's hands and become a servant, both spiritually and physically!

For this week, find the one you identify with the most or the one you want to learn more about and read God's word. Also, read Mary's Song and Zechariah's prophecy. What is God telling us? What is God telling you? What is God trying to change in us or enhance in us?

Use *Mary's song* and *Zechariah's prophecy* to help you this week prepare for the birth of our Savior!

See you Next Sunday as we continue with our December Sermon Series!

Event Information

Christmas Caroling December 20th

Everyone is invited to attend door to door caroling for shut-in members on December 20 at 4 p.m. followed by soup and hot cocoa at the church.

When?

Friday, Dec 20, 2024, 04:00 PM



Praying before the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 9th.



Joe, Sara, Natalie, and Katherine sharing the second Advent reading!



Renee, Evelyn, and Vivian sharing the first Advent reading!

Event Information

Christmas Eve Service

We will hold our Christmas Eve service at 5 PM!

When?

Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024, 05:00 PM

Where?

McKendree Methodist Church

December Service Schedule

December Series -Here Comes Our King!

December 1 - Worship at 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM; Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Kids.

Sermon Topic: "Here Comes Our King Part I - Prepare for a Visitor."

December 8 - Worship at 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM; Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Kids.

Sermon Topic: "Here Comes Our King Part II - Scandal?"

An admin council meeting will follow Sunday School.

December 15 - Worship at 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM; Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Kids.

Sermon Topic: "Here Comes Our King Part III - Lessons and Carols Service!"

December 22 - Worship at 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM; Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Kids.

Sermon Topic: "Here Comes Our King Part IV - Tell It! The Kingdom is Here and Now!"

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 5 PM!

December 29 - Worship at 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM; Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Kids.

Sermon Topic: "Here Comes Our King Part V - Who We Are in Christ!"

Event Information

Weekly Thursday Night Bible/Book Study! We will start on Jan. 9th!

- We will start our weekly Bible/Book study on Thursday, Jan. 9th at 6:15 PM. We will meet each Thursday! This will be pastor-led, but don't let that keep you away. ☺
- The first book we will read is: *Gospeler: Turning Darkness into Light One Conversation at a Time*.
- In the new year, our focus will be to Go! To go into our community and go into the world and grow God's Kingdom! We can do this one conversation at a time.

When?

Thursday, Jan 9, 2025, 06:15 PM

Where?

McKendree Methodist Church, Manfield Road, Manquin, VA, USA

McKendree Merchandise

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