

## While We Wait: Advent Through the Eyes of Elizabeth (Luke 1:57-80)

12/14/2025 - Andy Deane

While we wait, God is always working. In Luke 1, Elizabeth's long season of silence and disappointment becomes the very place where God reveals His mercy, His promises, and His purpose. Her story reminds us that waiting is not wasted—God shapes our character, clarifies our calling, and prepares us to receive His salvation. As we look through Elizabeth's eyes this Advent, we discover how to wait with joy, obedience, and expectant hope.

### **ADVENT THROUGH THE EYES OF ELIZABETH**

#### **1. God blesses us so His joy can spread through us.**

*Luke 1:57-58, 57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.*

- Sharing requires knowing: *neighbors & relatives heard*
- Sharing what matters: *Lord had shown her great mercy*
- Sharing brings joy: *they shared her joy*

#### **2. Let God's Word lead you—above all other pressures.**

*Luke 1:59-63, 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." 62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."*

- God's Word gets the winning vote for our decisions: *they were going to name*
- Our alignment to God's Word gives us a majority: *his mother spoke up*
- Submitting to God's Word brings clarity to our life: *called John*
- Followers of Jesus don't have to fear others: *they made signs to his father*

#### **3. God redeems our brokenness so His story can shine.**

*Luke 1:64-66, 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.*

- Our obedience opens what disobedience may have once closed: *his tongue set free*
- Use every opportunity to praise God: *he began to speak, praising God*
- Our testimonies inspire others to think about God: *What then is this child going to be?*

#### **4. God's promised salvation has come and it changes everything.**

*Luke 1:67-75, 67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David 70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— 72 to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham: 74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

- It was prophesied Jesus would come: *as he said through his holy prophets*
- It was a different salvation than was expected: *salvation from our enemies*
- It was an enabling salvation: *to enable us to serve him*
- It was a purifying salvation: *in holiness and righteousness before him*

## 5. God uses our lives to point people to the Savior.

Luke 1:76-80, 76 *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,* 77 *to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,* 78 *because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven* 79 *to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”* 80 *And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.*

- Like John, we are to do this: *you will go...before the Lord to prepare the way*

“Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.” — Late Evangelist D.T. Niles

“Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands, no feet, no mouth on earth but yours.” — Teresa of Ávila

- The calling: *give his people the knowledge of salvation*
- The message: *the forgiveness of their sins*
- The style: *because of the tender mercy of our God*
- The works: *shine on those living in darkness*
- The Spirit: *guide our feet into the path of peace*
- The connection: *became strong in spirit* (our daily seeking God helps us serve Him)
- The priorities: *he lived in the wilderness* (we are pilgrims passing through)

Elizabeth’s story began with barrenness, disappointment, and years of seeming silence. But it ended with mercy, joy, obedience, praise, and purpose. The same God who met her in her waiting is the God who meets us.

## QUESTIONS WE SHOULD ANSWER TODAY

What pressures—family, cultural, or social—have more influence on your decisions than God’s Word?

What is one thing God has already told you to do that you haven’t followed through on?