

The Good Gifts of the Good God

Luke 1:5-25

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5-7: Sometimes following God's _____ seems not to bring God's _____

Zechariah & Elizabeth

_____ God the best they could
yet had the deep public _____ and vulnerability
of having no children

Also true for all Israel: "400 _____ years"
"Zechariah" means "The LORD _____"
There is _____!

8-20: God _____ & answers prayer! Yet faith can be _____

God heard the prayers of a discouraged _____
God heard the prayers of a discouraged _____
God's plan: bring _____ and gladness
Not _____ and _____ they wanted
Yet God's intention: bring genuine _____ to a dying world
It takes _____ to believe!
Zechariah lacked _____
God kindly gave him a "_____"

21-22: The people _____ about God's actions

They knew that God is doing something!
They didn't _____ yet

23-25: The promise was _____, for a time in secret

Elizabeth gave _____ to God
Zechariah's praise was _____ because of His unbelief

The Big Idea:

God's promises will always come true

They are not stopped by our _____

**Yet our unbelief _____ our joy
or can make us _____ His goodness altogether**

Application

God's plan is to bring _____ and _____

John 10:10; Luke 1:14
God's work brings joy in His _____ and in His _____, which usually
is not in our _____ and in our _____
His gifts of life and joy are never _____ in this life

So it always requires _____...

We must _____ God to fully experience God's joy and work

James 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 15:58

In obedience and prayer

Obedience, prayer, and good works can all be done without _____

☒ and this removes their _____

Obedience, prayer, and good works

done as expressions of trust are _____!

In hope

Obey Him with _____ in His promises

even when His ways don't look _____ from our perspective

We leave God's gifts _____...

* by _____ Him

* by _____ Him

We "_____ " the gifts of God...

* by _____ Him

* by _____ Him

Psalm 25:1, 3

Reflection

- How have you seen trust in God be a means for God to bring joy even in times of trouble?
- How have you seen distrust in God cause us to miss the life and joy He has intended for us?
- How have you experienced, or are you experiencing, the reality that sometimes following God's ways seems not to bring God's blessings?
- What helps you trust God more? How can you help others trust God more?
- What hinders your trust? How might your words and actions undermine others' trust in God?
- What steps can you take during Advent this year to strengthen your trust in God, especially in His work through the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What steps can you take during Advent this year to strengthen others' trust in God, especially in His work through the Gospel of Jesus Christ?