

What Are You Waiting For?

It's Like a Babushka Doll

November 28, 2021

Luke 1v5-25

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. 7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

8 Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. 10 Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. 11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." 18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." 19 The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. 22 When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. 23 When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 25 "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Why advent?

What's your
"framing narrative"?

How do you spend your money?
What do you laugh at?
What makes you angry?
Who are your heroes?
How do you spend your free time?

What do these
questions tell you
about your framing
narrative?

What was Jesus' framing
narrative?

What if Advent is an
opportune time to get
hyper-intentional about our
framing narrative?

Israel & Exile

Zechariah &
Elizabeth

1v5-7

What was Zechariah
good at doing?

v13

Observation:
Notice the layers of
incongruence between
their faithfulness and
God's (perceived) lack
thereof.

v18-20

v67-80

What is Zechariah
being asked to do
again?

v24-25

What value did
Zechariah's 9
month waiting
bring to his ability
to identify with
God's movement
in the world?

What was Elizabeth good
at doing?

Advent Discussion
Questions on the Back

Book: *Out of Babylon* by Walt Brueggemann

Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page. You can schedule from there.

Meet with a Pastor, Therapist or Spiritual Director ?: Email info@narratechurch.org and we will schedule a meeting or help you get connected with a therapists or spiritual directors.