

# KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon  
*"Seeing and Being Seen"*

Date  
12-3-17

Speaker  
*Pastor Danny Clinton*

## **The Harmony of Christmas**

Over the next 4 weeks, we will be taking a unique look at the entire Christmas story.

- Usually at this time, we focus in on Mary and Joseph as well as the Bethlehem scene, but this year we are going to look at Christmas through the eyes of the Disciple Luke.
- Luke is the only gospel writer to record what may be called the first "Christmas Carols."
- Specifically, we are going to focus on 4 songs found in the Gospel of Luke that sum up The Christmas Story.

**All the 4 songs found in Luke follow a similar pattern. Within each of them there is always a:**

- A PROMISE
- A FULFILLMENT
- And A PRAISE

**I want to start by looking at one of the events that happened just BEFORE the birth of Christ...**

- Before Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and Jesus was conceived in her womb, another family was visited by an angel and told that they too would have a child...
- Zechariah & Elizabeth - A Childless Couple: (Vs) *Luke 1:5-7* - "Barren and Unseen"
- This was an incredible struggle-the greatest of their lives
- People who had waited in the Lord... Always waiting and praying... "Perhaps this is the year?"
- Zechariah is chosen by casting 'lots' to go into the Temple and offer incense to the Lord (a once in a lifetime opportunity) ... and something happens...(Vs) *Luke 1:8-25* - "Broken and Believing"
- A Confusing Miracle... Why this and then that?
- (Vs) *Luke 1:57-66* - They now become "Blessed and Blessing" people
- Perfect healing for us and all around to see

## **Overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, Prophecy happens through song...**

*(Vs) Luke 1:67-75 - "Song of WOW"*

*"...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 (as He said through His holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember His holy covenant, 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 in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.*

*In Essence... Zechariah proclaims... "I See You and I Am Seen."*

- **Note:** And not just a "Seeing" and being "Seen" on some Cosmic, Heavenly Scale, but intimately and personally seen and shown because God Desires Relationship!
- The First Part of his song speaks to this through hundreds of years of God's working among His people...
- He speaks of those promises given by God to a WHOLE people. Promises given to a nation concerning God's protection and care for them because they are His people.

**"Zechariah's Song proclaims a vision of a God who has never forgotten the people, who has promised to Abraham and to the forebears a consummation of a worship-filled peace, untroubled by enemies and without fear." - (Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, p. 896)**

- Our world today needs this message more than ever! - God wants Relationship!

### **The Second Part: of the song shifts gears...**

- Zechariah knowing that God brought JOHN into the world for a special purpose.
- He moves from the national/broad promises of God to a personal (and tender) application of those promises to himself and his son, John.

*(Vs) Luke 1:76-79 - "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, to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."*

**Notice...** Those words... "YOU, MY CHILD" - so Personal/Relational

- He is prophesying over his only son... Who would point people to the only Messiah...
- He knows John will be God's Messenger, preparing the way for the one who would be the Savior of the world... and HE (Zechariah) gets to his FATHER...

- Eventually, it's Elizabeth's cousin MARY who just three months later would give birth ... to Jesus the Messiah.

**Christmas is supposed to remind us that God is still using average people like Zechariah, people like us, with 'Struggles and Stuff' to share the GOOD NEWS of the Child King Who Saves!**

**There are so many applications we could draw out of Zechariah's Story and Song, but I think one thing comes through loud and clear – "OUR STORY IS BEST LIVED OUT WITHIN GOD'S STORY."**

**Zechariah understands this better than most... That after all our Struggles and Stuff...**

- "Barren and Unseen"
- "Broken and Believing"
- "Blessed and Blessing"

**In Spite of all this life brings... God not only fulfills all His promises... But...**

- Through that fulfillment, it offers us all a part inside the Cosmic Choir of His Harmony at work.
- Perhaps one day we too will be heard proclaiming, "I See You, and I Am Seen."
- Through Jesus Christ, God is willing and waiting for that day.