

What Am I (not) Doing for Christmas

Silence

December 15, 2019 / Dan Solofra

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ **Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.** ⁷ **But they were childless** because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. ⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was **chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.** Luke 1:5-9, NIV

The lives of all people are filled with _____ and _____ and dreams that come true and others that won't.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: **"Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.** Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, . . . ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to **make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**" Luke 1:11-14;17, NIV

In our day-to-day lives, the Lord is _____ and _____ to bring about his good will and purpose.

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, **"How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."**

¹⁹ The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ **And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."**

Luke 1:18-20, NIV

Zechariah tried to give Gabriel a _____ lesson.
Gabriel gave Zechariah time for _____.

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." ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and **his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.** Luke 1:62-64, NIV

Silence is not our goal, but a _____ we use to redirect ourselves to the _____ of our God.

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 Luke 1:67-69, NIV

Silence is best broken when we have something that is _____ saying and _____.

MEMORY VERSE

⁶⁸ **"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.** Luke 2:68, NIV

My next step: I will silence my voices of doubt and open my ears to hear God's promises. I will break my silence to share God's goodness and love.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.