

ALWAYS TRUST GOD'S WORD

Luke 1:5-25

This past week the G-20 met in Pittsburgh for their meeting. The leading industrialized countries sent their leaders to discuss the global economy. Prior to this week, advance teams from these nations were in Pittsburgh getting things prepared for this meeting. Preparation was and is essential.

The day finally arrived when God had chosen to send His promised Son to provide salvation for His people. It was a huge event and one that needed much preparation. So to prepare the people in advance, God sent John the Baptist to call the nation to repentance and reformation. In this John will both announce and introduce Jesus. Through this dramatic event we will again see how important it is to always take God at His Word.

THREE DRAMATIC SCENES UNFOLDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOHN'S BIRTH REMINDING US TO ALWAYS BELIEVE GOD'S WORD.

I. First We Encounter A Tragic Situation: A Couple Without A Child. (vv.5-7)

A. Dr. Luke, a good historian, carefully sets his account in its political context: "Herod the Great."

1. This time (37-4BC) was a time of oppression for God's people. Herod... not a friend...
2. He rebuilt the temple, to appease the Jews, but was really a ruthless man...

B. We meet a godly couple, a priest and his wife, who are older and nearing retirement living in the hill country near Jerusalem. Like: an old country pastor and wife, who are distinguished by their godliness. They were a spiritually exceptional couple, serving during a difficult day.

C. A problem exists: They are childless. (v.7)

1. Through this suffering, others considered them being punished by God.
2. Yet, our sins are not always the cause of our suffering.
Sometimes they are the cause, and we groan. God uses this to train us...
Sometimes we suffer for doing right.
Sometimes we suffer for the sins of others.
Sometimes we suffer because God wants to be glorified through our suffering.
3. You can never know for sure why we are suffering. Be careful. Not punishment here!
The best way to show John was special...have him come from a barren womb.

II. Next We Witness The Announcement Of John's Arrival. (vv.8-23)

This is totally unexpected and utterly amazing. God sends His angel Gabriel to Zechariah.

A. Zechariah's division of priests was serving, when his number was chosen. This would be the

