

## **GOD'S HOUSE CALL TO ZACHARIAH**

This year our Sunday Christmas special is entitled, "God's House Calls." We will study three house calls that God made during our Christmas season. They will all come from the Book of Luke.

- **Dec.7**                    **God's House Call to Zachariah**                    **(Luke 1:5-20)**
- Dec.14                    God's House Call to Mary                    (Luke 1:26-38)
- Dec.21                    God's House call to the Shepherds                    (Luke 2:8-20)

For God to send the archangel Gabriel meant that something big was about to happen in the redemptive history of Christ. Gabriel is the angelic herald of the messianic message (Dan.8:16; 9:21; Book of Luke).

In all three cases, God sent the archangel Gabriel to make His house calls.

**House call to Zachariah** - "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God." (Lk.1:19)

**House call to Mary** - "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth." (Lk.1:26)

**House call to the Shepherds** - "And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.'" (Lk.2:13-14)

**Today's lesson will study three aspects of God's House Call to Zachariah.  
God's Christmas card to us reads, "Nothing is impossible with God."**

### **1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.**

- Mature      (Lk.1:5-6)      Blameless believers
- Married      (Lk.1:7)      Barren for years
- Ministry      (Lk.1:8-12)      Burning incense for prayer
- Message      (Lk.1:13-17)      Birth of messianic prophet
- Maternity      (Lk.1:18-20)      Blessings based on God's grace

What was Zachariah doing when Gabriel appeared to him? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Lk.1:5-11)

How did he react to Gabriel's appearance? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Lk.1:12)

What six things did Gabriel teach Zachariah to erase his fear? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you think they worked? (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_ (check your answer – Lk.1:18-20). The message to Zachariah and us today is this - pay special attention to details of the word of God spoken to you!

When Gabriel showed-up at the right hand of the **altar of incense** with a special messianic message from God to Zachariah what was he doing? (Lk.1:9-11) "It was one of the priest's duties to keep the incense burning on the altar in front of the Most Holy Place. He supplied it with fresh incense before the morning and the evening sacrifices (Ex.30:1-10, NIV) (Lk.1:5-9; Rev.5:8; 8:3-5)."

2. **How often do we labor in our prayers for something promised in the word of God and when it doesn't come as we expected, we become doubtful and disappointed with the both the word of God and the concept of prayer (1 John 5:14-15).**

- Zachariah prayed when it was humanly possible to have children but stopped when it appeared humanly impossible. But what about God and His word? (Lk.1:37)
  - Promise (Gen.1:26) Population
  - Procreation (Gen.3:16) Adamic curse
  - Problem (Lk.1:7) Barren (whose problem?)
  - Pregnancy (Gen.30:2) God thing

“Is anything too difficult for the Lord?” (Gen.18:14/ Abraham and Sarah)

Then when it finally comes, we are like Zachariah doubtful and discouraged because of a different set of problems presented from our lives. In the beginning, they were healthy and youthful but barren. Now they are aged and well past the years for procreation (Lk.1:7) – “And Zachariah said to the angel, ‘How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.’” (Lk.1:18)

You might be thinking, “Who wouldn't have thought this way?” **But here is the answer.** Think like a spiritual mature believer (NMDV) who had just received a new revelation from God (Lk.1:13-17) – “Your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.” (Lk.1:13)

He should of thought the same way as Mary – “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” (Lk.1:38, NIV)

3. **Zachariah's problem is not that Elizabeth is hopelessly barren but that he is hopelessly walking by sight (human solutions to spiritual problems) and not by faith (spiritual solutions to human problems) – “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor.5:7)**

Like Abraham his problem is not old man age but old man thinking (Eph.4:22-24). Old man thinking is the source of his negativity and doubt towards the promises of God and life.

**Who changed? NOT GOD!** God is immutable - “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Mal.3:6; James 1:17; Heb.6:18)

Zachariah failed in the faith cycle (his walk by faith).

**Hearing**

(Rom.10:17; Luke 1:13-17)

**Completing**

(James 2:22)

**(THE FAITH CYCLE)**

**Believing**

**(Heb.4:2; Lk.1:18-20)**

**Applying**

(2 Cor.5:7)

Zachariah failed to believe Gabriel's message from God – “And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, **because you did not believe my words**, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time.” (Lk.1:20)

He was disciplined in his priesthood ministry (Lk.1:20-23, 62-66). “And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God.” (Lk.6:64)