

Remnant Life Church
December 14, 2014
“Establishing your Spiritual Heritage”
(Third Sunday of Advent)
Luke 1:39-45, 57-66

First week – Zechariah; the father of John the Baptist

Last week – Gabriel; the messenger God sent to tell Zechariah that he was going to be a father

This Morning - John’s mother, Elizabeth

- It’s safe to say that Elizabeth didn’t get to see John in any Christmas plays
 - Some of the most innocent, precious, and funny moments
 - (TELL) Three boys – gold, myrrh, frank sent this
- Do you know that each of you has a role in establishing your spiritual heritage?
 - This is not about age or time of life
 - It is not only about whether you are married and have children (although for the parent they play the most important in preparing their children’s spiritual heritage)
 - It is about the spiritual heritage that each of you are called to establish that allows you to be used of God to the highest measure of His purposes for your life
- Your earthly spiritual heritage is not promised to you – (your heavenly one is)
 - Your earthly spiritual heritage requires your involvement
 - It involves a purposeful intent to be mindful of what and why you do what you do
 - It is a partnership with the Lord
- Elizabeth shows us a wonderful blueprint for following biblical principles that allow us each to build our spiritual heritage.

1. Hold on to Righteousness and Holy Living

- a. Elizabeth and Zechariah lived the right way
 - i. *Luke 1:6-7 - Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.*
 - ii. Neither your current condition of life nor your past need to disqualify you from being used mightily of God
 1. They were old
 2. They were childless
 3. Even in those circumstances they were called righteous by God
- b. Not only does it not disqualify you but God will use it in what He has called you to do
- c. The first step is humble repentance – begin the right and holy living TODAY!

2. Keep Praying on in Hope

- a. Even though they were older they kept praying
- b. Gabriel told Zechariah that God had heard their prayers (1:13)
- c. The prayers continued even through a lifetime (until that time) of being unfulfilled
- d. We most often do not receive the fulfillment of our prayers because we give up
- e. But how should we pray?
 - i. Pray for the pulling down of satan's strongholds
 - ii. Pray for the eyes of those who do not believe or have a hard time believing to be opened
 - iii. Pray in and with great faith (mustard seed)
 - iv. Pray with the full, resolute knowledge that nothing is too hard or impossible for God (Matt 19:25-26)

3. Have Faith for the Big Picture

- a. Elizabeth had the faith to name her son a name that she had not been given (Gabriel) by a man who could not speak to her (Zechariah)
 - i. Abraham and Sarah had that same faith for a nearly identical promise (Gen 17-18)
 - ii. Moses had that faith to lead a nation to a land he had never been (Ex 3)
 - iii. Joshua had that faith to take a city that was thought to be unconquerable (Josh 5)
 - iv. Gideon had that faith to lead an overmatched army into battle (Judges 7)
 1. Gideon had a fighting force of 32,000 (Judg 7:3)
 2. The Midianite army was at 135,000 (Judg 8:10)
 3. God told Gideon to send all the men who were afraid home – 10,000 remained
 4. Still too many – down to 300 (Judg 7:6)
 - b. What kind of a faith picture is your life?
 - i. Is it one that only looks to the end of a day, a week, a year?
 - ii. Is it one that only looks as far your own means can take you?
 - iii. Or is it one that has
 1. An eternal perspective?
 2. An impact everywhere you go to the Glory of God?
 3. A desire to be used to the fullest of all that God desires for you?
- What will prevent these things from happening?
 - Pride
 - An unwillingness to humble yourself before God first, and each other second
 - Sinful actions or behavior that you allow to remain in your life