

Something New

The Birth of John the Baptist – Luke 1:5-17

Discussion Points

December 19, 2021

Read/Reflect

1. Read Luke 1:5-25. What's your impression of Zechariah as he is presented in this story? How would you characterize and compare him with Isaac's father Abraham, Samson's father Minoah, and Samuel's father Elkanah?
2. If Zechariah and Elizabeth are representative of God's people, what might be said of them (i.e. what are the parallels between this old couple and the people).
3. The foretelling of John's birth is side by side with the foretelling of Jesus' birth. John is specifically designated with a Nazarite vow (like Samson and Samuel. Jesus, like Isaac, is not given that mandate. In fact, with respect to wine, Jesus makes it (John 2) and drinks it with his disciples at the Last Supper. What does that observation say about any of these special births, do you think?

Explore

4. When Jesus says, "I am the way..." what is he talking about? How does John point people to that "way" or (as in Luke 1:17) to be "a people prepared for the Lord?"
5. Where in your life do you express the way of God's grace? the way of the Spirit's freedom? the way of the Lord's forgiveness? Where did that ability to express the new way come from? (See Jeremiah 31:31-34)
6. In your life, how do you point people to that new way of grace, freedom, and forgiveness? Where in your life do you think you could better follow "the way, the truth, the life?"

Pray

- ✝ Express your joy to God that he has created a new way to live and follow him in obedience and faithfulness – that it's no longer about your performance, but about your response to God's love for you.
- ✝ Pray that more and more you may be filled with that "something new" by the power of the Spirit.



SOMETHING
new