

Chapter 10: A New Priest is Born

With this outpouring of praise, Zechariah and Elizabeth exit Luke's narrative stage, never to be seen again. Yet the reality of their persistently faithful journey continues to challenge and inspire us. It reminds all followers of Jesus Christ to never forget that He faithfully remembers His promises and His people. Because of that spiritual reality, Zechariah and Elizabeth encourage us to faithfully persist in walking blamelessly day after day.

When we are misunderstood because we are committed to God's will and ways, when our unfulfilled longings go unmet, even when things make no sense to us; when it seems like time has passed us by, and even when all hope seems to be gone, because: Our God is a faithful and gracious God who remembers, Our God's perfect ways are always higher and better than our ways and because "nothing is impossible with God."

- When was the last time you burst forth in a profusion of praise to God? What prompted it?
- If worship means to respond to God, how much of each day do you spend in worship?
- Regarding God's grace in your life, do you feel overwhelmed by its presence, or do you feel it has been meager for substantial periods of time?
- Often what our religious culture thinks is reasonable and rational, and therefore recommends to us, is not necessarily what God would have us do. Do you have any examples from your past that illustrate this?
- Zechariah memorized Scripture and the Holy Spirit was able to draw upon that in Zechariah's profusion of praise. Does that have any implications for your meditating upon God's Word?

Ponder

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. John 1:16

Praise the Lord, O my soul; praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits—who forgives your sins and heals your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles. *Psalm* 103:1–5