

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Reflections to Share,
Journal and Ponder

Chapter 6: Dashed Dreams

The quality of our waiting says much about our faith as well as our view of God. It also speaks to our understanding and confidence in who God is, and our ability to fully trust in His will and His ways.

From where did Zechariah and Elizabeth's capacity to persevere in faithfully persisting come? Like all things, it was a gift from God. It was His gracious provision to sustain this couple during their times of prolonged waiting until His "fullness of time" had come for them. Later, Paul would remind the Corinthians of this spiritual reality when he asked them, "What do you have that you did not receive?"⁵¹

- Have you ever had to face a point of no return in some aspect of your life when all hope seemed to be gone? What was that like for you? How did that affect your relationship with God?
- Did you consciously ever have the sense that God was giving you an extra measure of faith during long waiting seasons of your life?
- Is your time with God dependent upon your life's circumstances or your expectations of God?
- Have you had times in your life when it was particularly challenging to faithfully wait, and to do so with a right heart? Can you relate to four decades of persistently waiting that way?
- So far, what do you most admire about Zechariah and Elizabeth? How would you most like to emulate them in your own life?

Ponder

He will have no fear of bad news: his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. *Psalm 112:7*

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. *Psalm 34:18*

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. *Psalm 62:1&2*

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. *Psalm 126:5&6*