

# Zechariah & Elizabeth

Reflections to Share,  
Journal and Ponder

## Chapter 8: Restoration

Over the course of his Gospel, Luke further develops this theme of sudden reversals that he initiates with Elizabeth's sudden restoration. This will become a major motif in his account of the ministry of Jesus. Luke will document Jesus' miraculous way of rescuing (saving) and restoring (lifting up) people by living out Isaiah's prophecy.<sup>52</sup> Jesus reiterates this prophecy in His "Nazareth Rescue Manifesto"<sup>53</sup>, declaring that He will "proclaim freedom for the prisoners." Luke will repeatedly show us that Jesus did not merely heal people, but in doing so always restored them socially, spiritually and physically. Typical examples include the woman with the issue of blood,<sup>54</sup> the raising of the widow of Nain's son,<sup>55</sup> and reclamation of the Gergesene Demoniac.<sup>56</sup>

- How many times has God rescued you? Which was the most dramatic? Which was the most surprising?
- Have you ever been marginalized, only to experience God's restoration in unexpected ways? Can you relate to the Lord's rescue always leading to restoration? Have you experienced that progression in your own life?
- When you pray for others, do you put the emphasis of your prayers on their need for immediate rescue, or on their ultimate need for longer-term restoration?
- Has "nothing is impossible with God" been a reality in your life? How has that worked itself out in your circumstances?
- Where do you best identify with Zechariah and Elizabeth at this point in their journey?

### Ponder

You have turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever. Psalm 30:11-12

How great is your goodness which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. *Psalm 31:19*

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great your power." *Psalm 66:3*

Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O Lord, have done it. *Psalm 109:27*