

# **SURPRISED!**

## **Luke 1**

**Let us marvel at God's wonderful surprises!**

### **I. A SURPRISE ANSWER** (1-5)

#### **A. THE INFORMATION**

- *"...your prayer has been heard ...."*

1. The Proclamation: Zacharias is told that his wife will bear a son! (13)
2. Their Prayer: They had no doubt prayed for years
3. The People: They are good folks (5-6)

#### **B. THE LESSON**

- *God's timing may surprise us!*

1. Though God heard their prayer and knew their character, He did not immediately answer their prayer.
2. He had a special assignment for just the right time
  - A time of revival (vs. 16-17) and repentance (76-78)
3. This was the right time! (Earlier in their marriage it was not the right time)
4. Though they prayed in secret God, in His time, rewarded them openly! - cf. Matt. 6:5-6

#### **C. THE APPLICATION**

- *What about our prayer life?*

1. Do we pray without ceasing? - I Thess. 5:17
2. Do we pray believing? - Mark 11:22-24
3. Will we honor God while we wait?

### **II. A SURPRISE ASSIGNMENT** (26-38)

#### **A. THE SITUATION**

- *"... you will conceive in your womb and bear a son"*

1. Confusion (28-29)
2. Communication (31-33)
3. Question (34)
4. Consideration (35-37)
  - a. Details (35)
  - b. A Sign (36) > Elizabeth is now expecting
  - c. Assurance (37) > With God nothing is impossible
5. Cooperation (38)

Over please >

## B. THE REALITY

1. God can call insignificant people to do amazing deeds.
  - Mary was young, poor and unassuming (26-27, 48)
2. God often ignores impressive credentials
  - That way He gets the glory > See I Cor. 1:26-29

## C. THE QUESTION

1. *Are we available to God?*
2. Consider the prayer of Abraham's servant in Genesis 24:26-27

## III. A SURPRISE REACTION (57-63)

### A. JOHN'S BIRTH

- *There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name!* (61)

  1. The details (57-58)
  2. The naming (59-63)
    - a. Everyone wanted "Zacharias" meaning "Jehovah has remembered" (v. 59)
    - b. Elizabeth insists on "John" meaning "Jehovah is gracious" (v. 60)
    - c. Zacharias insists that his name will be "John" (61-63)
  3. The commitment
    - a. Question: Why did they insist on naming him "John"
    - b. Answer: Because God said it should be so! (13-14)
    - c. Reality: They absolutely followed God's will!

### B. THE TRUTH

- *People's response to our obedience may surprise us!*

  1. They may not understand our commitment to God's ways or absolute conformity to His will.
  2. Example: Job's wife - Job 2:9

### C. A PROBE

- *Will we wholeheartedly obey God, even when others don't understand it?*

  1. Will we let people deter and distract you from faithful obedience?
  2. Are we willing to take a stand?
  3. Will ours be a God-honoring home? - Consider Joshua 24:15

## CONCLUSION: Read Ephesians 3:20-21

**Let us glorify our God who is full of surprises!**