

God's Planned Parenthood

Luke 1

- Biography of older couple . . . in for a surprise
- Biographies can . . .
 1. Encourage imitation. Abraham, Moses, Paul...
 2. Expand hope. Ja.5:16-18
 3. Eliminate excuses. Hb.12:1-2
 4. Enlighten faith. Ro.15:4

Luke 1 – why did Lord select John's parents?

1-4: overall purpose: produces faith in Lord's claims, fulfills prophecy, brings Savior into world

5: direct descendants of Aaron: priests ... Lk.1:5

- Too many; divided into 24 courses
- Only four returned from Babylon
- Divided into 24 courses with old names (Ezr.2)
- Each course did duty for 8 days, sabbath to sabbath, twice a year

6-7: childless, barren, old

- Not a sign of God's displeasure

Luke 1 – why did Lord select John's parents?

8-9: 1000 priests in each course; duties appointed by lot. Daily sacrifices. Incense...

- Zacharias to burn incense...

10: incense burned in holy place...

- Court of the Israelites
- Waited for priest to come bless them (21)

11-17: Gabriel appeared:

- Joy, 14
- Great, 15
- Successful, 16
- Forerunner, 17

Luke 1 – why did Lord select John's parents?

18: “How shall I know this?” (‘I’m old...’)

- He wants proof... Next sign is proof enough

19-20: “I am Gabriel...”

- Wrong speech punished with no speech

21-22: [*Do you believe me now?*]

I. Their Character

5: lived in midst of sin without conformity

- Days of Herod...
- Herods pose no great threat to God-fearers
- Great threat: lukewarm ... ritualists

6: both remained true to God

- 60-63, united family
 - Job's wife
 - Lot
 - Ananias and Sapphira
- Both obeyed commands of God: *blameless*
- Many offer selective obedience

7: both remained faithful in spite of problems

- Childless... regarded as sign of God's displeasure...
- Grief: Sarah, Rachel (Gn.30:1), Hannah...
- Like Sarah, Elizabeth is barren / old, 7, 18

13: rightly believed in prayer

- Knew it was a boy
- Knew about his character and mission

I. Their Character

II. Their Charge

13: son named John: [Yohanan] – God's gift, or,
God is gracious

14: would cause joy to them and others. Mt.11:11

15: would abstain from wine. Life dedicated to
God. Ep.5:18

16: cause many in Israel to turn to God. Ja.5:20

17: go before Lord in spirit of Elijah

- Both condemned evil kings: Ahab / Herod
- We have access to same God (Ja.5:17f.)

57-66: what manner of child shall this be?

I. Their Character

II. Their Charge

III. Our Charge

Do we assume Bible characters did good job training children?

- David: 2 Sm.11...13...15... 2 K.1
- Zacharias: Lk.1:18-20, not perfect
- Mary: Lk.1:34...38, excellent
 - Zacharias and Elizabeth did learn
 - God chose couple that would take parenting seriously
 - John stood for truth even against corrupt officials...

“If we cared for our shrubbery as we do for our children, we would soon be living in a jungle”

- Referring to parents who leave children to raise themselves [do their own thing; no discipline
- Failure to follow God’s word is sin against the child
- Failure to teach God’s word cripples the child’s faith
 - Infidels are made

Bear and whelps

- 2 Sm.17⁸ For, said Hushai, you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field
- Prov.17¹² Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly

How concerned should Christians be over their spiritual challenges?

- Prov.10¹ A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.
 - Joy or grief? Sin is not private

- Prov.19¹⁸, Chasten your son while there is hope,
And do not set your heart on his destruction.
- [1 K.1:5]
- Prov.13:24, He who spares his rod hates his
son, But he who loves him disciplines him
promptly.
- Prov.23¹³, Do not withhold correction from a
child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not
die. ¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver
his soul from hell.

- Prov.29¹⁵ The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.
17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.
 - Rod: physical
 - Rebuke: verbal
- Ep.6:1-4
 - Two parts:
 1. Teach obedience
 2. Teach honor

- We have limited time to . . .
 - 1) train child
 - 2) discipline child
 - 3) instruct child in word of God
- Make each day count
- Soon they will be gone...