



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of May 1 & 2, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 1:57-66

[57] Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. [58] And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. [59] And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, [60] but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." [61] And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." [62] And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. [63] And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. [64] And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. [65] And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, [66] and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiKaichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In our passage today, we learn how Elizabeth was filled with great joy because of God's mercy to her. We must likewise count our blessings and live joyfully rather than live entitled lives filled with bitterness and disappointment. We also learned how God nurtured and strengthened Zechariah's faith through 9 months of affliction. Finally we saw how this entire narrative about John's birth was really about God and how His mighty hand was at work throughout the entire story.

Discussion Questions

1. In our sermon, we heard of Elizabeth's great joy over the birth of her son, but how this joy arose *primarily* from God's great mercy towards her. We learned that our joy in this life will be intimately related to how we view the mercies of God towards us. In what ways has God shown you mercy? How can you increase the joy in your life? Although the answer to the previous question may seem obvious, why is it sometimes difficult to apply?
2. In our message we heard that we sometimes don't recognize God's mercies because we are living an "entitled life". The entitled one thinks, "I deserve more and I should get something better than what I am receiving right now." Why do we sometimes feel entitled? How does entitlement lead to bitterness rather than joy? Why is it good to remind ourselves what we truly deserve before a holy and righteous God?
3. For 9 months, Zechariah was afflicted because of his unbelief. During that time, Zechariah learned to believe and obey God. His suffering was not in vain. When you are afflicted do you tend to turn towards God or away from Him? Why is it hard to see our affliction as coming from the hand of a loving God? How does a clear recognition and understanding of God's mercies, help us better understand and deal with our afflictions?
4. We see the roots of John the Baptist's future humility in his parents. In our sermon we heard that parents are the greatest influence in their children's lives and therefore need to be authentic Christians as they parent their children. This is true for every believer and not just parents. How would you define an "authentic Christian"? How can you become a more authentic Christian?
5. The main character in the story of John the Baptist's birth was God. Behind all the characters in the Bible is the great and mighty revelation of God. How does it help you in your daily walk, knowing that behind the scenes of every story in your life, there is a merciful, patient, long-suffering God caring and walking with you?