

SERMON OUTLINE Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth's Song: The Baby in My Womb Leapt for Joy

THE DAYS BEFORE THOSE DAYS

THOSE DAYS DRAWING NEAR (1:1-38)

THOSE DAYS

The Facts of Those Days

1. *Planned by God (1:45, 9, 17, 20, 13, 31).*
2. *Through entirely unexpected means (1:26; John 1:46; 1:17; Malechi 4:5-6)*
3. *Through miraculous means (1:32, 34, 41, 43, 44).*
4. *It is a gift to hear the story and hearing the story is a gift (1:15, 35, 41, 45)*

The Poetry of Those Days

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this sermon is that experiencing the true significance of the incarnation is a miraculous gift from God. The main takeaways, therefore, are to immerse ourselves in the truths concerning Jesus' birth and the poetry that celebrates it, and with those things, to prayerfully seek God's help to respond as we ought.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What was your experience with Christmas growing up? What kinds of things did you do? What was your favorite?
3. How does anticipating something add to your joy in that thing?
4. What tradition could you start during Advent this year to make your anticipation, preparation, and celebration fuller?
5. Which of the facts surrounding the first Christmas stands out to you the most? Why?
6. Do you think it would have been harder to be Elizabeth or Mary? Which of the two women can you most relate to?
7. What is one aspect of the meaning and significance of Christmas that you would like to see God drive deeper into your heart?
8. What means has God used to help you grow in celebrating and responding to Christmas as God intends?
9. Try to remember the last time you were truly overjoyed at something. How did you respond?
10. Which of Elizabeth's poetic responses stands out to you the most? Why?
11. Have you ever experienced God's sanctifying grace through poetry (don't forget about poetry in song/singing)?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Create a children's book, telling the story of Christmas from Genesis to Revelation (bonus for coloring pages and poetry).
14. Read the different songs in Luke's Gospel in preparation for the sermons to come (1:46-56; 1:67-79; 2:25-35)
15. Make a list of three people you'd like to share the Christmas story with. Pray for them every day. Share as the Lord allows.
16. Pray for and come to Behold as a way of stirring your affections for Jesus.
17. Pick up [Leland Ryken's Journey to Bethlehem](#) or some other guide for Christmas poetry and add it to your devotions.
18. Create and share a playlist of the best Christmas songs—doctrinally and musically rich.
19. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
20. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that His plans always come to pass. Praise God that He is omniscient and omnipotent. Praise God that He is able to grant understanding, joy, and dancing to babies in the womb. Praise God that He is a perfect promise keeper. Praise God that He is perfect in all ways, including His plans and timing.
22. Confess. Confess numbness or indifference to the truths of Christmas and any worldliness in your approach to Christmas. Confess failure to seek out and celebrate all the glory that God has put in Christmas. Confess a loveless heart that refuses to share the Christmas story with others.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for sending Jesus in love. Thank Jesus for emptying Himself to dwell among us. Thank the Spirit for opening our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts to the glories of Christmas. Thank God for giving us the Christmas story.
24. Supplication. Ask God to fill us with joy in the coming of Jesus. Ask Him to save the people in your life who do not yet know Him. Ask Him to comfort the broken hearted, bring love to the lonely, forgiveness to sinners, and peace to the earth.