

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Real Life Stories of God Sightings Series Lesson 28

Lesson Title: Zechariah and Elizabeth

Take Home Point: God can do anything for you to point to Jesus.

Warm-Up:

In the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, as Dorothy begins down the yellow brick road, she comes to an intersection of four roads. As she ponders which one to take, she hears a voice tell her that, "Some people go that way." She looks around for who is speaking but sees no one except a scarecrow pointing down one of the roads. Again as she considers which path to follow, the voice says, "Some people go that way." She looks around again for the speaker but sees only the scarecrow now pointing toward a different road. As she stares startled, the scarecrow points in opposite directions and says, "Of course, some people do prefer to go both ways!" He was of no help at all because he couldn't offer a specific direction based on truth.

Read: Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80

Observation (What happened?):

According to both Gabriel and Zechariah, what was John's task to be?

Where was Zechariah and what was he doing when Gabriel appeared to him?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Explain in your own words what John would do and how he would do it.

Do you think anyone at that moment, including Zechariah and Elizabeth, understood what God's plan was and what was to come? What might they have been thinking?

Insight:

Unlike Oz's Scarecrow, John the Baptist knew exactly which way to point. He pointed to Jesus, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." John was the bridge between the Old Testament prophets who looked ahead, and Jesus who was the fulfillment of their prophecies. In Matthew 11:13-14, Jesus himself said, "For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come." What did Jesus mean? He was referencing the words of the prophet Malachi at the very end of the Old Testament. Malachi promised a prophet in the spirit of Elijah to come turn the people back to God. Isaiah said this prophet would prepare the way of the Lord. Gabriel repeated both these very same messages when he appeared to Zechariah to announce the child's birth. No doubt Zechariah and Elizabeth taught John the prophecies of the Old Testament, and told their boy about the angel's appearance and message so John would be ready to point to the Savior.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Write the name of one person that God used to point you to Jesus. Spend a moment to thank God for that person.

Who is watching your life? How are you pointing them to Jesus?

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