

# LWML Texas District

December 11, 2023

Meditation

## So Much to Say

Do you ever leave a conversation thinking, “I wish I would have talked less and listened more?” The father of John the Baptist, Zechariah, seemed to have this problem as well.

*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*

*Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”*

*And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. (Luke 1:5–22).*

God heard the prayers of the priest Zechariah. Can you imagine being advanced in years, and longing for a child, and yet still nothing? Then one day, God speaks directly to you through an angel saying God has heard you and will give you a child. We might be like Zechariah and ask “How!?!” How do you respond when God blesses you in a way you have been longing for?

It seems easier to look back on our prayers and trials and see how God was at work once it is over. Our challenge is to wait on His timing and trust in His will and promises. As you continue

in your prayer life focus not on what you want, but on how God works all things out for the good of those who have been called according to His purpose (see Romans 8:28).

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

So Much to Say  
*Written by* Kayla Winkler  
*Published by* Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District  
Christian Life Committee, 2023