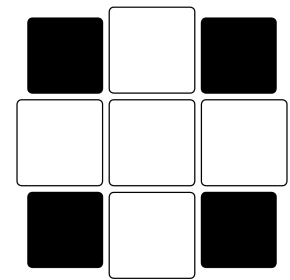


The Prologue

Scripture: **Luke 1:5–25**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, April 2, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Silence can be good, silence can be awkward—it can depend on the context. **Though God is sometimes silent, he is never inactive.** We can trust God when he's silent because we see his love in Christ who is his final word.

Corroborating Texts

Psalms 19; Lamentations 3:22; Genesis 50:20; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 1; I Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1-8

Discussion Questions

1. Briefly recap the history of Israel as well as how Luke sets the scene. [God had been “silent” for a few hundred years. These are the days of Herod. The people are under Roman occupation. There is a temple, but God’s presence does not reside there.] Why is it necessary that Luke begin a gospel account with a narrative about John the Baptist?
2. Compare Zechariah and Elizabeth’s waiting for a child with Israel’s waiting for a word from God. What might this say about how Luke wants us to think about the coming of John the Baptist as well as about Jesus?
3. Have you experienced a period of silence from God? What did it feel like? What was your initial reaction and how, if at all, did you grow?
4. Why might we be tempted to think that God’s silence is inherently a bad thing? Think personal and cultural contexts.
5. In what way is Christ the ultimate answer the people of God were waiting for? [See Hebrews 1. Also, this might not be a bad time to read forward to the songs by Mary and Zechariah later in the chapter.]
6. Pastor Joe gave us four things to remember when we experience a time of silence: **rest in the promises of scripture, continue to pray, be patient, and learn from the silence.** Compare these encouragements to those last week regarding what to do in a season of *doubt*. Why do we see similarities? What can you do to help stave off doubt during a period of silence and instead learn from it?