

saturday
December 19
Luke 1:5-25

Elizabeth & Zechariah

Scripture tells us that Zechariah and Elizabeth were descendants of Aaron, the Jewish line of the priesthood. They were "righteous in the sight of God, observing the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly." They were also childless, which at the time was taken as a sign of God's disfavor. It must have been perplexing and painful to long for a child, knowing that they were following God with all their hearts, and likely facing shame and silent (or not so silent) judgment from their community. Yet they continued to serve in faithfulness, waiting on God.

It is at the end of this waiting, when Elizabeth and Zechariah could have given up, that God chooses to speak and act. Harkening back to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis, God's blessing comes through this unlikely older couple to bring into the world a child who "will be a joy and a delight" and who "will be great in the sight of the Lord."

Let us not give up hope as we wait faithfully for God to speak and act in our lives and in our world. With Elizabeth and Zechariah, as well as numerous other times in scripture, great moves of God are preceded by simple acts of obedience. Let us continue to pray, to seek, to serve, knowing that God uses this faithfulness to do amazing things at just the right time.

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