

2024-11-24 – Sermon Notes – The Characters of Christmas – The Prequels

Summary

The sermon explores the beginning of the Advent season, focusing on the prequel to the Christmas story as found in the book of Luke. It highlights the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, who despite their righteousness, faced the challenge of childlessness. The message emphasizes the importance of faith and trust in God's greater plan, even when life doesn't go as expected. It encourages believers to see God's hand in their lives, preparing them for something greater, and to have hope for the restoration of relationships, especially with family members who may be distant from God.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, we ask for open hearts and minds to receive what You have for us. Help us to see Your hand in our lives and to trust in Your greater plan. May we be filled with hope and faith, knowing that You are always working for our good. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is your favorite type of Advent calendar, and why?

Key Verses

1. Luke 1:5-25
2. Colossians 3:17
3. 1 John 4:20
4. Matthew 22:37-39

Questions

1. What does the Advent season mean to you personally?
2. How do you see God's preparation in your own life for future events?
3. Why do you think Zechariah and Elizabeth continued to serve God despite their disappointment?
4. How can we apply the lesson of trusting God's timing in our own lives?
5. What are some ways we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus this Advent season?
6. How can we support each other in times of doubt and uncertainty?
7. What role does faith play in overcoming life's challenges?
8. How can we encourage those who are distant from God to see His love and plan for them?

Life Application

This week, take time each day to pray for someone in your life who is distant from God. Ask God to prepare their heart for His love and to show you ways to demonstrate His love to them.

Key Takeaways

1. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.
2. God's plans are greater than our own, and He is always working in our lives.
3. Faith and trust in God are crucial, even when life doesn't go as planned.
4. Our actions and love for others should reflect our love for God.
5. God's timing is perfect, and He can use our struggles for a greater purpose.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the reminder that You are always at work in our lives. Help us to trust in Your timing and to have faith in Your plans. As we go into this week, may we be a light to those around us, showing Your love and preparing the way for others to know You. Amen.