



Who is the most famous person you've known or met? How did it happen?

**Week : Week of November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Sermon Series: Gospel of Luke: Arrive**

**Read Together: Luke 1:5-25**

**Watch today's Video then discuss:**

1. Do you prepare for holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas? What needs to be done before they arrive?
2. Do you enjoy the anticipation of Christmas? Are you overwhelmed by preparation? Why or why not?
3. *The season of Advent, which means "arrival," is a time of preparation and anticipation before the coming of Jesus Christ, both through remembering his incarnation and birth on Christmas Day, and waiting in anticipation for his second*

coming. Do we need to prepare for Jesus' Second Advent? What would you like Jesus to see you doing when he comes again?

### GOING DEEPER

4. Read Luke 1:5-6. What do you think it means to be "righteous before God?" What do you think are all of the "commandments and statutes of the Lord?"

5. Read Luke 1:8-10. What do you think is the purpose of a priest? (*Zechariah was a Levite and 1 of 20,000 priests in Judea at that time. He served in the temple twice a year. To be chosen to carry out the sacred duties during morning or evening sacrifice usually happened only once in a lifetime to a priest. At the end of the sacrifice, the priest would come out of the sacred space in the temple to the gathered crowd that was praying and proclaim the high priestly blessing over them.*)

6. Read Luke 1:11-13. How would you react to seeing an angel face-to-face? (*When reading verse 13 take note that every name given has special meaning; Zechariah means 'God Remembers,' Elizabeth means 'My God's Promise,' John means 'The Lord is Gracious.'*) Do you think the naming of John by the angel has any significance?

7. Read Luke 1:14-15. What does "joy and gladness" look like to you? Why would many 'rejoice' at John's birth? What do you think it means to be "great before the Lord?" Why do you think the angel said that he must not drink wine or strong drink?

8. Read Luke 1:16-17. Then read Malachi 4:5-6. What do these verses have in common? Who is John going to be when he grows up? (*Note: at this time there are no prophets in Judea. In fact, there had not been a prophet of the Lord since the time of Malachi, about 430 years.*) What do you think a prophet does? Do we have prophets today? Why or why not?

9. Read Luke 1:18-20. Do you think it is fair that Zechariah is made silent? Why do you think this happens? (*Note: there is irony here. A priest who fervently prays for a child and serves God in his Temple, is shocked and unprepared to have his prayer answered and to have a face-to-face experience with the glory of God!*) Are you prepared to have God answer your prayers? Are you prepared to have God show up in your life?

10. Read Luke 1:21-25. Now read Numbers 6:22-27. Do you recognize this? (*It is the benediction that is used in worship at Atonement every Sunday. It is also the high priestly blessing that was said to the people at the end of morning and evening sacrifice in the temple.*) What do you think the significance is that Zechariah is unable to speak God's blessing at this time? Is waiting part of faith? (*Note: Israel had been waiting for God to speak to them for several hundred years. Now Zechariah has to wait until God's promise of a son is fulfilled before he can speak, and it is through this son that God will speak to his people again, preparing them to receive God's Son.*)