

An Impossible Redemption

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Key Text

Luke 1:7

→ “But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.”



Big Idea

From the very beginning, God has chosen to advance his redemptive program through the impossible children of barren of wombs as a way of underscoring one simple truth: salvation belongs to the Lord!

(1) A Righteous Couple

The first thing that is brought to our attention in the story is the quality of this couple, both in lineage and in ethic, both in pedigree and in morality. Luke describes them as righteous and blameless but this does not mean they are without sin. It means rather that they are trusting God’s sacrifice for sin while desiring and attempting to live without sin.

(2) A Barren Womb

Barrenness was an almost unbearable reproach for an Israelite—you don’t fit into God’s plan for humanity, or His promise for your nation, and you bear in your body indications not of reward and blessing, but of punishment and curse! That’s what makes this righteous couple’s barrenness so tragic. But God had other purposes. They had no idea that even in this profound tragedy they were right in the middle of God’s ancient plan. They had no idea that God hadn’t forgotten them but was waiting for the right time to remember and remove their reproach and cover their shame! They had no idea that the years of barrenness was not for their specific sins, but for God’s glory and for their joy!

(3) A Miraculous Birth

After years of tears and prayers, reproach and shame, YHWH remembers: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son...” (v. 13). You thought it was over, it’s just beginning!

This miraculous story connects us back to the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and even of Hannah, the mother of Samuel. But all of these stories, including that of Zechariah and Elizabeth, are pointing us forward to the impossible redemption God would bring by coming in His Son to die for our sins and raise us up to new life in Him.



Critical Action

Stop trying to perform for God and first receive what He has done for you. Before the Christian life is anything else, it is a miracle of new birth from the dead, an impossible redemption!



Reflection Questions

- Would you say that you’ve been a forerunner for Christ’s glory or have you tried to make Him your forerunner? Are you in His story, or is He in yours? Explain.
- Have you ever been stuck in your suffering, confused whether it was your sin that’s caused it or something else? What have you found helpful in these times? What other reasons might we suffer besides as a direct result of our sin?
- In your own words, why do you think God chose to advance His plan of salvation through women with barren wombs? What message is He communicating to us? How should you live in light of this? Have you been living in light of this?