

God with Us through Sacrifice Forever

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 1:9b

→ "...he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense."



Big Idea

Every detail in this story matters. In it all God is trying to communicate. The couple, the place, the hour, the angel—they are all chosen by God to amplify the glory of His coming Messiah!

(1) Why This Couple? (vv. 8-9a) [God...]

Why choose a couple "barren...and advanced in years" (v. 7) to bear a child? Because such a couple would underscore both man's fundamental inability to work his own redemption and his utter dependence on God to work it for him. God tells a barren and elderly couple that they will have a child so that everyone would know: Only God could have done such a thing

(2) Why This Place? (v. 9b) [God with Us...]

Why choose the temple as the place to first announce the coming Messiah's birth? Isn't it only right, that the place which always stood for God's dwelling-presence with Israel would be the place He announces His plan now to come in the flesh and dwell with her in a more climactic way?!

(3) Why This Hour? (v. 10) [God with Us through Sacrifice...]

It's here in the temple at the time, most likely, of the evening sacrifice, while the hungry flames of the altar were still consuming the unblemished lamb upon it, that God announces to Zechariah that to him will be born a son. And this son will prepare the way for God's Son, of whom John would later testify: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (Joh 1:29b). His sacrifice, His blood, secured in earnest all that the temple sacrifices symbolized. In what other place, at what other hour would be better for God to reveal such a thing?!

(4) Why This Angel? (vv. 11-12) [God with Us through Sacrifice Forever]

As Gabriel was the angel sent by God to Daniel to foretell the coming Messiah, so now, hundreds of years later, Gabriel is sent to Zechariah to announce: "The Messiah is all but here!"



Critical Action

As sacrifice was the burning center of the temple complex, keep the cross of Christ central in your relationship with God. Don't rise up, don't go to bed, don't leave home without it!



Reflection Questions

- How closely do you read the Scriptures? Would you have skipped right by these connections? How do they enrich your understanding of this story?
- Are you that orphan, trying to live without your heavenly Father? If you were created to dwell with God forever, how would you say you've been dwelling with Him lately?
- How does sacrifice hold together both the reality of God's holiness and graciousness for you? What other texts come to mind in this regard?
- How does sacrifice hold together both the reality that you are sinful and forgiven? Which side are you more prone to get stuck on? Do you trifle with sin or get hopeless in it?