

Beautiful Mess: How To Deal With The Messes In Your Life!

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How To Deal With The Messes In Your Life!

Beautiful Mess, Pt. 3

Luke 1:11, *Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."* 18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

-Zechariah And Elizabeth Were WAITING And WOUNDED

How To Deal With The Messes In Your Life:

1 - Live A Life Of PURITY And SERVICE

Luke 1:5, *In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 **Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly** 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very*

*old. 8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and **he was serving as priest before God.***

-Even Righteous People Carry Burdens

2 - Let God Answer You In His Own TIME

Luke 1:9, *he (Zechariah) was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, **to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.** 10And **when the time for the burning of incense came**, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.*

-Faithfulness Is The Groundwork Of GOD'S ACTIVITY

3 - Let God Answer You For HIS PURPOSE

Luke 1:13, *But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 **He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.** 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—**to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**"*

-Not All Burdens Are CREATED EQUAL

4 - Trust God Even When Things SEEM IMPOSSIBLE

Luke 1:18, *Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." 19 The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to **tell you this good news.** 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, **because you did not believe my words**, which will come true at their appointed time."*

-It's Hard To Tell The Difference Between NO And NOT YET!

5 - When God Blesses—STAY FAITHFUL

Luke 1:57, *When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and **they shared her joy**. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, “**No! He is to be called John.**” 61 They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” 62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “**His name is John.**” 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and **he began to speak, praising God.***

What’s Next:

- 1 - Go to the tables at the back and grab an ornament: on one side write down a mess or something you have been waiting on, and on the other side list things you are going to do, to let faithfulness be the groundwork for God’s activity!
- 2 - Make plans now to attend one of our Christmas Eve services and invite someone to come with you. Christmas Eve Service Times are: 1:00p, 3:00p, 5:00p, and 7:00p.
- 3 - If you want to learn more about Home and Life Groups, or have a question about Cottonwood Creek, stop by the Connect Wall in the Atrium.