

HIS STORY

December 3, 2017

Introduction: Have your dreams ever been shattered? Have you ever hoped for, longed for and desired something that never came to fruition? As we work our way toward Christmas, we will look at an older couple with unfulfilled dreams in our new series called *Breaking In*.

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25

I. My Story

A. My righteousness is ignored.

⁵ *In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And **they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord (Luke 1:5–6).***

⁹ *Then his wife said to him, “**Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.**” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. **Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?**” In all this Job did not sin with his lips (Job 2:9–10).*

Question: Do you not answer the prayers of the righteous?

B. My dreams are unfulfilled.

*But **they had no children**, because Elizabeth was barren; and **they were both well along in years (Luke 1:7).***

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord (Lamentations 3:26).

Question: What have you done for me lately?

C. My timing is often disregarded.

*Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? **I am an old man and my wife is well along in years**” (Luke 1:18).*

You said, ‘Woe to me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest (Jeremiah 45:3).

Question: Will you ever answer the groanings of my soul?

NOTE: Just because my dreams are unfulfilled, it does not mean I live as if God has abandoned me. I live my life knowing "this" is the story God has written for me.

II. His Story

A. God asks us to Join him.

*Then an angel of **the Lord appeared to him**, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, **he was startled and was gripped with fear**. 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 give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth" (Luke 1:11-14).*

If unfulfilled... join God in the work he is already doing.

B. Watch Me

*...he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. **Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God**. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord** (Luke 1:15b-17).*

*And he will **turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...**" (Malachi 4:6).*

If unfulfilled... walk in righteousness.

C. Believe Me

*"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 proper time**" (Luke 1:20).*

If unfulfilled... trust in God's timing.

NOTE: Just because my dreams are unfulfilled, it does not mean I live as if God has abandoned me. I live my life knowing "this" is the story God has written for me.

III. My Story Revised

A. My wait turns to joy.

*After these days his wife **Elizabeth conceived...** (Luke 1:24).*

*It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; **we have waited for him**, that he might save us. This is the Lord; **we have waited for him**; let us **be glad and rejoice in his salvation**" (Isaiah 25:9).*

B. My reproach is taken away.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and **for five months she kept herself hidden**, saying, ²⁵ **“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people”** (Luke 1:24–25).

²² Then God remembered Rachel, and **God listened to her and opened her womb**. ²³ She conceived and bore a son and said, **“God has taken away my reproach”** (Genesis 30:22–23).

⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and **the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth**, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said **on that day**, **“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation”** (Isaiah 25:8–9).

NOTE: Just because my dreams are unfulfilled, it does not mean I live as if God has abandoned me. I live my life knowing “this” is the story God has written for me.

Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly (Luke 1:6).

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Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25

I. My Story

- A. My righteousness is _____. (*Luke 1:5-6*) (*Job 2:9-10*)
- B. My dreams are _____. (*Luke 1:7*) (*Jeremiah 29:11*) (*Lamentations 3:26*)
- C. My timing is often _____. (*Luke 1:18*) (*Jeremiah 45:3*)

NOTE: Just because my dreams are _____, it does not mean I live as if God has _____ me. I live my life knowing "_____" is the story God has _____ for me.

II. His Story

- A. God asks us to _____ him. (*Luke 1:11-14*)
- B. _____ Me (*Luke 1:15b-17*) (*Malachi 4:6*)
- C. _____ Me (*Luke 1:20*)

NOTE: Just because my dreams are _____, it does not mean I live as if God has _____ me. I live my life knowing "_____" is the story God has _____ for me.

III. My Story Revised

- A. My wait turns to _____. (*Luke 1:24*) (*Isaiah 25:9*)
- B. My reproach is _____ _____. (*Luke 1:24-25*) (*Genesis 30:22-23*) (*Isaiah 25:8-9*)

NOTE: Just because my dreams are _____, it does not mean I live as if God has _____ me. I live my life knowing "_____" is the story God has _____ for me.