

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

The Benedictus of Zechariah – Luke 1:67-79

A Song of God's Transforming Enablement

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Sunday, December 18, 2016

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. How are works related to your salvation?
2. Pastor John spoke of the fact that all of us serve, whether it is serving God or mammon (money). Read Matthew 6:4. After trusting in Christ, share how have your priorities gradually shifted? What were some of the challenges that you had faced or currently are facing as you strive to turn away from the world? (I Thessalonians 1:9, Romans 12:2)
3. How have you experienced the support/enabling of God in your service of Him?
4. Read Luke 16:13-15, Exodus 20:3-6 and 1 John 2:15-16 and discuss the following:
 - a. In his sermon on the Benedictus, Pastor John preached about how God freed us from our original master of sin and we were now free to serve Him. How do these verses back up the point that we must turn away from our old master in order to serve God properly?
 - b. Read Mark 4:19 and re-read 1 John 2:15-16. Why are we so easily led back to our old masters according to these verses?
5. One of the things that was happening in the time of Luther was the focus on sacred places and sacred things, and the apparent absence of God in places outside those venues. Look at our world today and discuss what can be done to respond to the absence of God in our community.
6. What are your inner feelings when you think about the coming judgement of God?

7. In Luke 1:75, righteousness was defined simply as “our standing before God”. To explore this further, read Matthew 5:20 – what does the righteousness of the Pharisees refer to and how do we go about ‘exceeding’ it – or can we? (Isaiah 64:6) What did Pastor John mean when he said that righteousness was ‘imputed’ to us? Read Romans 3: 21-22 as a reference passage.
8. Read Luke 1:75 and focus on the phrase “Before Him”. Regarding next year 2017 as being the 500th anniversary of the Reformation movement, how has this two-word phrase changed our view on how God relates to us and how we relate to Him? For reference, examples to consider would be to contrast the Monastery vs. The Marketplace, or the Sacred Places vs. Everyday Life, or the Edifice (physical structures) of the church vs. The Home, etc.
9. Discuss the difference between holiness and righteousness. How is your ongoing growth in holiness progressing?
10. Pastor John defined holiness in part as ‘the pursuit that is before me’. Read Galatians 2:20 and share with one another some practical ways we can pursue holiness?
11. Please read II Corinthians 3: 17 – 18 and share how we might be able to be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ?
12. Read Luke 1:74 – fear can be manifested in many different ways. Share in your group what fears you might have or have had? Read Philippians 4:13 and consider how God can help you overcome your fears. Read Proverbs 9:10, what does it mean to fear the Lord and why is it the beginning of wisdom?
13. Read Hebrews 4:16. How do we approach God with confidence as is spoken of in this passage and yet still hold the "fear" or reverence that we should, for God? This seems like a paradox and yet it is what we are asked to do.