

Righteous Before God



Luke 1:5–7 · This week: Be It unto Me According to Thy Word, Matthew 1; Luke 1

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 01, “Be It unto Me According to Thy Word,” on Gospel Library**

START

Zacharias and Elisabeth kept the commandments for years while the blessing they wanted most stayed out of reach (Luke 1:6–7).

READ TOGETHER

Zacharias was a priest who served in the temple in Jerusalem. Elisabeth came from the family of Aaron, Israel's first high priest (Luke 1:5). They had no children, and by now they were both old.

LUKE 1:5–7

⁵There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Luke calls them “both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Luke 1:6). In the next verse he says they had no child. Luke sets those two facts side by side, and neither one cancels the other.

In their culture, having no children brought shame. Elisabeth called it her “reproach among men” (Luke 1:25). Her faithful life shows that a hard trial is no sign that God is displeased.

Elder Neil L. Andersen described how faithful people wait. *“We feel the Lord’s approval for our meek willingness, and we await the promised peace the Lord will send in His chosen timing.”*

Elder Neil L. Andersen, “The Triumph of Hope,” General conference, October 2024

Zacharias kept serving in the temple when his turn came, and the couple kept praying. When the answer finally came, the angel said, “thy prayer is heard” (Luke 1:13). The Lord had been listening all along.

TALK ABOUT IT

Zacharias and Elisabeth kept the commandments while they waited for years. What is something our family is waiting for, and what can we keep doing while we wait?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Luke calls Zacharias and Elisabeth righteous in one verse and childless in the next. A long wait for a blessing can sit right beside a faithful life, and God hears every prayer in it.