

YOUR CHRISTMAS STORY

Part 1: A Different Season

TIS THE SEASON

- A. The same old same old
 - 1. Highly distracting
 - 2. Higher than normal stress
 - 3. Easier to get out of routine and rhythm
- B. But what if you made it a different Christmas season?
 - 1. A time you became closer to the Lord
 - 2. A time God did something good in your life
 - 3. Why not a different season **(Mark 10:27 NKJV)**

WHEN THINGS BECAME DIFFERENT

- A. No reason to expect different
 - 1. Zacharias and Elizabeth had become used to no results
 - 2. Their heart's desire was not fulfilled and it was too late
- B. But God intervened with some great news **(Luke 1:13-16, 18-20 NKJV)**
 - 1. Their prayers were heard, an answer was coming
 - 2. Zacharias did not believe God's promise to him
 - 3. He was silenced - not as punishment, but as protection
- C. Zacharias made an adjustment **(Luke 1:59-64 NKJV)**
 - 1. Names were very important - carried the family legacy
 - 2. Zacharias called him John acknowledging this was a God thing

YOUR DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS SEASON

- A. Keep the door of hope propped open
 - 1. Don't allow your past to determine your future
 - 2. Many people love/serve God, but are not expecting anything good from Him **(Psalm 27:13 NKJV)**
- B. Talk yourself into God's promises for your life, not out of them
 - 1. Zacharias was hung up on his situation - their ages
 - 2. Don't allow perceived hang ups to hang you up **(Joel 2:13 NLT)**
- C. Get in agreement with God
 - 1. Especially regarding how you label the elements of your life **(Proverbs 18:21 NKJV)**
 - 2. As believers we live by faith in God, not what we see/feel