

For Everyone – The Wrong Path Luke 1:57-80

Small Group Questions – December 8, 2019

Getting Started:

1) What is your favorite tradition surrounding the Christmas season? What are some things about the Christmas season that you really don't like (EXAMPLE: Christmas music in October or Fruit Cake, etc.)?

The Big Idea:

We want our lives to be struggle and conflict free. The reality is we often find ourselves on a path we would have never chosen. A path filled with obstacles and potential risks filling our hearts with fear and toxic emotions. When we find ourselves there we have to come to terms with a basic question: Why would a loving God allow these circumstances into our lives? And...how do we get our hearts to rejoice in the Lord?

Digging Deeper:

(The Dilemma)

2) From our time in chapter 1 we know that Zechariah & Elizabeth desperately struggled with the path they found themselves on (Luke 1:2-24). What were some of the specific dynamics of their struggle? Name as many bible characters that you can who also found themselves on a 'Path' they would have never chosen.

a. How did Zechariah respond to the angel Gabriel?

b. Have you ever been, or are you currently, offended with God? Why? What are some of the questions that have haunted your heart?

3) Luke leaves Zech & Liz in verse 25 and our last flavor of Zech is offense w/God. Luke picks things up with Zechariah again in verse 57. What has changed? How do you think Zechariah was doing at month three of his wife's pregnancy? What about month five when she was most likely on strict bed rest? What does this say about our need to have time? What does it say about God's grace?

4) (Read II Cor. 12:6-10) Sometimes it's our sin that God busts us over. Other times it's a proactive move on His part that has nothing to do with our sin. How is this harder to accept from a loving God? Has God ever proactively busted your heart (Wrong answer could make your nose grow☺)? How?

(Two Choices)

4) *The Mirage*: Sunday Pastor Glen said we will sometimes chase a *mirage* in response to being on the wrong path. What did he mean by that? What are some common ways Christians chase mirages? If we chase our own solution (*mirage*) what will be the end result?

- a. What are some mirages you have chased (Or are chasing)?
- b. In what ways did those solutions (the mirage) fail you?

5) *God's Solution*: Pastor Glen talked about how if we chase God's solution it will eventually lead to rejoicing. Agree or disagree? When God says to us, like He said to Paul, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness,*" how does that lead to rejoicing?

- a. In what ways does God want to use our struggle?
- b. How does God develop trust & character in our struggle?

Making It Real:

Share a 'PATH' you are currently on that is a struggle in which you need prayer. Pray for each other.