

Dig Deeper on Luke 1:5-25 for personal study and Life Groups...

Matt Pluke's points from Luke 1:5-25...

- 1) a) God is a promise making and promise keeping God
b) to Zechariah the priest
c) and God is faithful in fulfilling his word to him.
- 2a) God is a promise making and promise keeping God
b) to us the priesthood (of all believers)
c) and God is faithful in fulfilling his word to us.



For today's Dig Deeper we start digging into the "birth narratives", looking at the story of Zechariah in the temple....

1. How many "newspaper headlines" would you give to sum up this story, and what would they be?
2. Does it feel a little harsh that Gabriel struck Zechariah dumb for him doubting such a surprising message? Read Malachi 3:1-2 & 4:5-6 and Luke 1:20, 38 as part of your answer.
3. What does the story tell you about the reliability of God's word? How does this fit with what we saw last time from Luke 1:1-4? Which parts of God's revelation do we most struggle with? How does this passage help us?
4. Zechariah was a priest. Matt reminded us that his main roles would have been a) offering sacrifices, b) praying for people, c) speaking God's blessing. Have a look at these verses and then discuss how we **need** a priest, and how we can **be** faithful priests....
 - a. Hebrews 4:14-16
 - b. 1 Peter 1:9-10
 - c. Revelation 1:5b-6



Resources

- The context of the book of **Malachi**! Especially the references above.
- Article on **the Priesthood of All Believers**:
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-priesthood-of-all-believers/>
- This passage touches on the **sensitive topic** of childlessness and fertility issues. Please be exceedingly careful and loving with one another on this, and if anyone would like to talk more with someone, please get in touch with Charlie or your lifegroup leader who can point you to people you may like to talk to in confidence.