

**SOME PERSONAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE
CHRISTMAS STORY
(Luke 1:5-38)**

Notice...

**I. SOME PRINCIPLES REGARDING THOSE WHOM GOD USES
(Luke 1:6,7,8)**

- A. God uses holy people (6,7). Zacharias and Elisabeth were walking in obedience to God's Word and were blameless.

Unlike the Pharisees who displayed an outward righteousness they obeyed God from their hearts so what they did wasn't for show and wasn't hypocrisy.

This principle is seen in the writers of Scripture (II Peter 1:21).

- B. God uses busy people (8). It was while Zacharias was serving God that God gave to him a special revelation.

This principle is seen in the lives of Samuel (I Sam. 3:1), James and John (Mark 1:19), and then Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:2).

II. THE ENCOURAGEMENT WE HAVE TO PRAY (Luke 1:13)

- A. God hears our prayers and answers them according to His plan for our lives.

Zacharias and Elisabeth had no doubt been praying for a child for a long time, but it didn't mean God didn't hear.

- B. God is able to work in impossible situations.

It may have appeared impossible for Abraham and Sarah to have a child but God can do the impossible as we pray.

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNBELIEF (Luke 1:20)

- A. Unbelief results in God's judgment

Because of his unbelief Zacharias was made speechless for a season (1:20).

Because of their unbelief a whole generation perished in the wilderness.

Because of unbelief multitudes are already condemned (Jn. 3:18) and will spend eternity in hell.

B. Unbelief results in missed blessings

It was because of their own unbelief that the children of Israel did not enter the promised land at the first (Heb. 3:16-19).

Many will miss heaven because of their unbelief. But many will miss the blessing of being used of God because they fail to believe God's promises and step out in faith.

God has promised to be with us as we reach out to others (Matt. 28:19,20).

IV. THE KIND OF ATTITUDE THAT GOD DELIGHTS IN (Luke 1:38)

A. God delights in a subservient attitude

Mary was willing for God to use her in anyway He desired.

This is the kind of attitude Joshua had displayed as he ministered under Moses. God uses those who are willing to be a servant to others.

B. God delights in a humble attitude

The reason God doesn't use some people in His service is because they are too proud.

Before Joseph ruled in the palace of Egypt he served in the prison house. Before David was exalted as king of Israel he humbly played his harp for King Saul.