



*The Family: Are You In?
Episode 6 - October 24, 2010*

When Religion Runs Out

Luke 1:57-66

Getting Started

1. What was your best Halloween/fall festival costume growing up?
2. Finish this thought - the biggest problem with religion is _____.

Digging Deeper

1. Read Luke 1:57-66 together - what word, phrase or sentence did you find most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. Look at 1:63-66 again - this is a picture of how people respond when religion runs dry and can no longer explain ordinary, everyday life
 - a. Why is this group of people surprised that this baby is named John?
 - b. Why do Zechariah and Elizabeth Insist on naming their son John?
 - c. What impact does this decision have on Zechariah? On the crowd?
3. Why does Zechariah begin to sing a song of blessing to God? Read Luke 1:67-80 together - a different person reading each verse.
 - a. Where did this song come from? (67)
 - b. This song is a prophecy - prophecies always tell us something about who God is, what he is about to do, and how we must respond to him
 - i. What does this song tell us about God's character?
 - ii. What does this song tell us about God's actions?
 - c. Answer the question above this way - Zechariah sings this song because it reminds those who hear it that God is _____ and that he always _____ for his people.

Ordinary Life, Gospel Intentionality

Two things we learn from this story that shape our everyday lives:

1. Zechariah followed through on God's commands
2. Zechariah's obedience is a response to God's grace and mercy

Consider the week ahead and the details of your everyday life:

1. For non-spiritual people
 - a. As you take in the details of this story, what problems do you see?
 - b. How would you rewrite the story in a way that embraces both love and justice?
 - c. Is there anything here to be commended? Anything that displays the kind of life you want to live?

- d. Based on what you know from the Bible or conversations with Christian friends, what is the difference between your motivation for how you live and the motivation that drives Christians to live the same way?
2. For spiritual and/or religious people
- a. What command of God are you finding most difficult to live out? [NOTE: flesh this out in details - I'm not doing X in situation Y with person Z because AA
 - b. Are you frustrated by the inability of spiritual or religious activity to help you obey? Talk about this frustration with your Fight Club or with a trusted friend if you're not in a Fight Club
 - c. In light of your specific rebellion and failure, what tangible evidence of grace in your life is most likely to create spontaneous thanksgiving?
 - d. In light of this grace, how can you publicly display your hope in Christ this week?