

**30 Days Together**  
**“Immanuel – God With Us”**  
**#30daystogether**

**Day #20 – Dec. 15**

**Text: Luke 1:57-66**

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

**Devotion:** Ruth Meyering

There is an interesting backstory to this episode of the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth. First, Zechariah and Elizabeth were “upright in the sight of God, observing the commands and regulations blamelessly.” (Luke1:6). Elizabeth was barren and “both well along in years” (Luke1:7). The angel Gabriel announced that Elizabeth would bear a son, whose name would be John. (Luke1:11) Zechariah questioned the angel, God knew his heart and Zechariah was struck speechless *for at least nine months!*

Zechariah had lots of time to think about this miraculous event; lots of opportunity to be angry and defiant with God. But, instead, when tradition would have the son take on the father’s name, Zechariah writes for all to see: this babe will be called John.

Vs 64: “and immediately his mouth was opened .... And he spoke, blessing God.”

Zechariah blesses God! He does not get caught up in the people around him, he doesn’t start defending himself, he does not go into a tirade about what God has done to him. He has a changed heart. Zechariah may have needed the entire nine months to get to that place where he could let go and let God be in charge. His focus turned back to God; with awe and reverence for God’s power and majesty. He had been restored, forgiven and renewed. God allowed Zechariah room to stretch and grow in his faith.

During this advent season, take the time God has given each day to rest is the quiet; to be restored by His forgiving grace; trusting in Him for the future, knowing that He is with you always. Bless His Holy name.

Closing Prayer: Lord, Thank you for your unending love and mercy. Thank you for being there to speak to us in the stillness and quiet. I pray that the words on my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, this day and every day. That I may think, first, about the words I choose to speak, that they may bring glory to your name. I thank you for the forgiveness you grant when I fail. For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, whose arrival we anticipate. Amen