

Sun Valley Bulletin

Sun Valley Church of Christ

May 31, 2009

Birmingham, Alabama

When the Promise Seems Impossible

The angel had said, "Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son." (Luke 1:13) But Zacharias said, "Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife is well stricken in years." Abraham asked the same question in Genesis 15:8 but with one very important difference: Abraham believed God and Zacharias did not. It is not that Zacharias was an unbeliever. Luke clearly shows that both he and his wife Elizabeth were "righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." He had borne the shame of childlessness all of his long life, praying all the while in those hopeful childbearing years; but nothing. We can single-mindedly ask the Lord for something so long that we lose heart, lose faith, and become maybe a little bitter in our disappointment. Many of God's great gifts have come in answer to petitions made over a period of many years, even a lifetime. Let's add some names: Rachel, the mother of Joseph; Hannah, the mother of Samuel; and of course Sarah, the mother Isaac. These examples not only teach us to pray without ceasing, but also that what we pray for should be something that God wants to give. "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Zacharias by his unbelief shows that he had come to believe that God could not for whatever reason keep His promise to give him a son. Abraham believed God when He

promised that his seed would be as the sands of the sea even though he was getting old, his wife was barren, and he still had no children. Abraham believed God even when He commanded him to offer Isaac, his only son, as a burnt offering, reckoning that God could even raise him from the dead. Zacharias could only see that old men and women don't give birth to children. He knew all the reasons why it would be impossible for God to keep His promises.

The Greeks scoffed at the Gospel promise that the risen Lord Jesus will one day raise us up because they knew all the reasons why it would be impossible for the dead to be raised from corruption. Do you scoff at any of God's promises?

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

In the prayer of the unjust judge, we have this question. "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7-8)

Who are you more like? Abraham or Zacharias? Zacharias was a great man who gave birth to the greatest of men to walk the earth before Jesus, John the Baptist. Yet, he would not allow himself to believe that God could do the "impossible." tp

Sun Valley

Church of Christ

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News and Notes

The sick and injured

Unaking and James Currier
Jim Padgett's brother Milton
Paul Stallings' sister-in-law Rhonda
Elaine Phillips

The shut-in

Bernice Odell
Elsie Kirkpatrick
Varina Corbin
Francis Walling
Arranelle Meisner
Osburn and Marjorie Holt

Birthdays

2-Wayne Odell, 11-Joe Wright,
13-Billie Courington, 18-Chastity Steve

Gospel Meetings

Kimberly

May 31-June 5, M-F: 7:30 pm
Issues in the Last Great Divide
Hollis Creel, Ed Bragwell, Reginald Ginn,
Harold Comer, Jackie Richardson, Charles
Maples

Pea Ridge, Montevallo

May 31-June 5, M - F 7:30 pm
Bennie Williams

Pleasant Grove

June 7-12, M-F: 7:30
Sammy Bynum

Hillview, Forestdale

May 31-June 4, M-F 7:00 pm
W.T. Allison

Skyline Dr., Warrior

June 8-12, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Vacation Bible School

Worship Leaders

Lord's Table: Lee Roy Golden, Larry Courington, Wayne Odell, Joel Resendez

Song Leaders: May 31-Bill Lammons, June 3-Fred Watts, 7-Roger Golden, 10-Terry Partain

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Bible Study Scripture reading	Wayne Odell	Jim Padgett
Bible Study Prayer	Fred Watts	Brad Golden
Sunday AM opening prayer	Herb Palmer	Larry Courington
Sunday AM dismissal prayer	Bryan Golden	Charles Bain
Sunday PM Scripture reading	Bill Lammons	Wayne Odell
Sunday PM opening prayer	Don Womble	Herb Palmer
Sunday PM dismissal	Roger Golden	Bryan Golden
Wednesday PM Scripture reading	Lee Roy Golden	Fred Watts
Wednesday PM Opening prayer	Forrest Berry	Terry Partain
Wednesday PM Offer invitation	Wayne Odell	Paul Stallings
Wednesday PM Closing prayer	Paul Stallings	Don Womble

Announcements for May: Herb Palmer - 854-2029

June: Roger Golden - 856-1982