



VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION

1 | Announcement of the Birth of John (Luke 1:5-25)



Commentary by

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OPEN THE
SCRIPTURES

How many years, I wonder, had Zechariah been praying for a son? Many, many years; many, many times has he prayed for a son. This seems to be what characterizes his whole existence: that he's a righteous man; he's a good man; he's a priest, and he has no son. These are the things that we know about him.

And when the angel comes, he says, "*Zechariah, your prayer has been answered. Your prayer has been heard. You're going to have a son,*" and what happens? Zechariah doesn't believe the angel. It's as if he'd been praying all those years, and maybe even as he was burning the incense that day, and didn't really believe that anything would ever come of it.

- How often do we do this?
- How often do we pray prayers without really believing that the Lord is going to answer them?
- How often do we say prayers without thinking of what we're saying?

We can rattle off the Our Father without paying attention to the words at all. We say our meal blessing which is thanking God for something that he's given us, with hardly a bit of gratitude actually in our hearts.

When the Lord answers Zechariah's prayer though, he answers it in a way that he never ever imagined because the Lord loves to answer prayers, but in a way that we don't quite expect.



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