

## **Luke 1:5-7, 11-17**

<sup>5</sup>In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. <sup>14</sup>He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. <sup>16</sup>Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."



### **SERMON NOTES**

December 6, 2009

T. Don Guthrie, preaching

### **Ready for Christmas**

Luke 1:5-7, 11-17

Are you ready for Christ to come into your life with fresh power?

John 15:2 – pruning

Ancients weren't ready.

“to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (v. 17)

Prepared for centuries

Not ready in their hearts

Religious without true hunger for God

Barrenness – (Zechariah and Elizabeth, Jews, us)

- Conviction of the Holy Spirit

1 Thessalonians 1:5 “because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.”

- Call to repent

Prepare the way of the Lord... Baptism of repentance (Mark 1:3,4)

Repent = to change (“meta noia”)

- Commitment to Patience

God’s timing, not ours!