



## We Need Grace

Why Christmas? – Part 3

Luke 1:57-80

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Q: When you think of God what images or feelings comes to mind? A Holy Judge? A Loving Father?

Luke 1:57-64 *Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her. 59 And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. 60 But his mother answered and said, "No indeed; but he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name." 62 And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. 63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished. 64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God.*

## Why Christmas?

### I. To Show Us God's Mercy. (Vs. 57-58)

### II. To Prove God's Grace is Greater than God's Memory.

Luke 1:59-64 *And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. 60 But his mother answered and said, "No indeed; but he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name." 62 And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. 63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished. 64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God.*

- Zacharias = "Yahweh remembers"
- John (Yohanan) = "Yahweh has been gracious."

### III. To Show the Power of Grace. (Vs. 67-79)

Luke 1:67-74 *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant-- 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old-- 71 Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; 72 To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, 74 To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear..."*

The "Why Christmas" Song:

- He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people...*
- And has raised a horn of salvation...*  
Psalm 18:2 *"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."*
- Salvation from our enemies... all who hate us*
- To show mercy toward our fathers...*
- Being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve without fear.*

Point: "Why Christmas?" Because God is gracious.

### Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. What does your name mean to you? How was it chosen? What does it signify?
2. When you think of God what images come to mind? What attributes do you think of?
3. When in your life have you experienced God's great mercy?
4. How have you experienced God's holiness and judgment? How have you experienced God's love and grace?
5. If you sang a song about God's grace in your life, what would be the themes of each verse?

