

Luke: Doubting Believers

- ↪ **Luke 1:13-22** We were introduced last time to undistinguished couple named Zacharias and Elizabeth, but we saw that God began to distinguish them. We pick it up where we left off last time: **verses 13-23**. One unlikely event is followed by another. How is it that he couldn't believe the angel?
 - ↪ Satan can't keep God from answering our prayers, but he can get us to doubt that he will! He needed stronger evidence than a word from God? **Luke 16:31**, no miracle or sign can match the power of the Word of God to touch a life. God takes it personally when we don't believe what He has said, wouldn't you?
 - ↪ We were introduced to him as being a godly man: **verse 6**, what happened to him?
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1. Zacharias' story is our story.

- ✓ There's something in us that is offended by his lack of faith: "how could he do such a thing?" Be careful! Part and parcel of our offended-ness is the assumption that we'd never do such a thing. That is dangerous! **1st Corinthians 10:12**.
 - ✓ As much as I would like to think that I would do better, I know I can be weak, **Matthew 26:33**. Doubting is a common experience among believers. Church is a hospital for sinners; it is also a home for doubters. Our job here is to heal sinners and to be compassionate to those who doubt **Jude 21-23**.
 - ✓ I think we feel threatened by doubt, it's like that elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about, I don't see where God is threatened at all by doubters. **Matthew 28:16-17**; Are you a doubter? Are you worried about a doubter? **John 10:27-28**, quit worrying about whether or not Jesus can do His job!
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2. Dealing with Doubt.

- 1) Admit your doubt and ask for help – **Mark 9:24**
- 2) Recognize that faith is a choice not a feeling –
- 3) Don't be afraid to borrow some faith – **Mk. 2:5**
- 4) Act on your faith and not your doubts –
- 5) Understand that there are some things you will never figure out in this life – Don't wait until it all makes sense to move out in faith.
- 6) Keep going back to what you know is true –

3. Doubt doesn't mean you're disqualified!

It didn't disqualify Zacharias; it won't disqualify you!
