

Sermon Series: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
"Dayspring"
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: *Luke 1:67-79 NKJV*

Now John's father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Discussion Questions:

1. What jumps out at you about this passage?
2. The first half of the passage focuses upon God's action in the past. What has God done for his people? Looking back upon your life, how have you seen God at work?
3. The second half of the passage focuses upon God's action that has begun now that will be completed in the future. What is and what will God do?
4. The name of Zechariah's Song is called the Benedictus, which means praise or blessing in Latin. Zechariah couldn't speak for nine months and eight days because he doubted the angel Gabriel's message about a son being born to him because of his and his wife's old age. The first words he uttered in nearly a year were a blessing. *If you were Zechariah, what do you think your first words would have been? What do you think Zechariah learned in that time of silence?*
5. Christmas is about two births. First and foremost, the birth of Jesus the Savior. But Luke tells also about the birth of John (who will become John the Baptist). Why is he important to this story?
6. The passage says that the tender mercy of God inspired the visitation of the Dayspring from on high. How would you define tender mercy? What do you think it means that the Messiah will be the Dayspring from on high?
7. This Dayspring will lighten our darkness and help us find our footing and walk in ways of peace. Why is it so important to not just admire Jesus, but to imitate him?