

Sermon Notes / Advent Week #1

Sunday, 30th November 2025

Main Theme:

In seasons of God's silence and low points, He works like unseen roots beneath the soil, preparing breakthroughs that fulfill promises and inspire hope—as in Zechariah's story.

Introduction

Christians face spiritual silence, unanswered prayers, and feelings of abandonment, tempting doubt in God's care.

We crave dramatic moves, but God's work is quiet until breakthrough (Luke 1).

Question: What do you do when God seems silent?

Takeaway: Journal one unanswered prayer this week & remind yourself God is at work.

God's Silence in History

400 years of no prophets; Malachi 4.5-6 promised an Elijah-like figure to turn hearts.

Luke 1.16-17 echoes this, breaking the silence.

We wait 2,000+ years for Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4.16-17).

Takeaway: Read Malachi 4 and pray for patience in your waiting season.

God Works at Your Low Point

Priests served by lot (1 Chronicles 24.10)

Zechariah, righteous yet childless (Luke 1.5-7).

Barrenness was devastating, but part of God's plan like unseen roots.

Obedience doesn't prevent trials.

Takeaway: Share a low point with a friend & discuss how God might be weaving purpose.

Routine Duty to Breakthrough

Zechariah burns incense, symbolizing prayers

(Luke 1.8-10; Psalm 141.2).

Angel announces John, answering prayers (Luke 1.11-13).

Silence ends; persist in prayer.

Takeaway: Set a daily prayer time & offer one persistent request like Zechariah.

Roots Before Breakthrough

John fulfills prophecies: Spirit-filled & will turn hearts

(Luke 1.14-17; Isaiah 40.1-3).

Unseen roots grow in waiting.

Takeaway: Meditate on Isaiah 40.3 & meditate upon God's return.

The Cost of Doubt

Zechariah doubts & is silenced (Luke 1.18-20).

God's plans stand even in our doubts

Advent Hope processes delays (Luke 1.21-25).

Takeaway: List a doubted promise from Scripture & re-affirm it in prayer.

Conclusion: Embrace Hope

Silence leads to fulfillment; trust unseen roots.

This week, reflect on promises; cling to hope.

Worship our faithful God.

Discuss with someone: How silence has strengthened your faith.

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