Finding Home for Christmas: Detours
Luke 1:67-79
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Luke 1:67-79: His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David 70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- 72 to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham: 74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ for a life changing detour

_____ of discontent: 14 No matter how much you get, it will never be enough— hollow stomachs, empty hearts. No matter how hard you work, you'll have nothing to show for it— bankrupt lives, wasted souls.

Micah 6:14 (MSG)

_____ the best path: Go into the narrow gate rather than the wide gate because the wide gate goes to the highway of destruction!... Choose to enter the narrow gate and the difficult path because it leads to eternal life. Even fewer will be the people that are trying to discover it. Matthew 7:13-14 (JOT)

2. _____ our sense of direction for home

_____: Asking for a tablet, Zachariah wrote, "His name is to be John." That took everyone by surprise…Zachariah's mouth was now open, his tongue loose, and he was talking, praising God!...Then Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied….

Luke 1:63-64, 67 (MSG)

_____ the joy: Bless the Lord, the God of Israel, because God has come to minister to his people through ransoming them from slavery…he has raised up salvation…just has he promised…it proves he remembers his covenant…he rescued…he enabled us to serve him…..

Luke 1:68-74 (JOT)

_____ into greater light: All this will be because the mercy of our God is very tender, and heaven's dawn is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, and to guide us to the path of peace. Luke 1:78-79 (TLB)

3. _____ strong in the struggle to get home

_____ filled: The Living Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood and we saw his glorious light!... He was filled with grace and truth….Out of the overflowing wealth of his grace we have all received grace on top of grace, more than we could ever imagine.

John 1:14-16 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Do you find yourself not ever being completely satisfied? Does the emptiness in your heart gnaw away at your peace and hope? Do you worry that you are headed in the wrong direction? Jesus says: *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:17 (NIV)) Jesus wants to lead you home! This is why he became flesh and moved into the neighborhood to share his love with you. Accept the greatest gift God could ever give you by asking Jesus into your heart and receiving his forgiveness. This week read Isaiah 7 and John 1 to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to the light of grace!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; MSG: The Message; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible