

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 1 November 29, 2022 – December 4, 2022

This Winter quarter's lesson identifies the difference between "chosen, not choice," and the purpose of GOD'S calling, which is rooted in grace rather than in humankind's merit.

Unit I, GOD prepares the Way has four lessons, lessons one and two deals with Zachariah from the opening chapter of the gospel of Luke. Zachariah faced disappointment and doubt until the promise of a son became a reality. Lesson three deals with the entrance of John the Baptist, GOD'S chosen voice to prepare the way for the Messiah. Lesson four deals with the celebrating Advent with Mary's song as she rejoices in the news that GOD has chosen the humble.

Unit II, GOD'S Promises, has five lessons from the books of 2 Chronicles, Isaiah, and Joel that let us know that we can trust GOD to keep HIS word. Lesson five deals with Solomon's Temple is being dedicated in 2 Chronicles, GOD promise to hear the people and to forgive them in response to their prayers and repentance. Lesson six deals with the celebrated passage that proclaims that GOD'S people are waterproof and fireproof because of HIS (GOD'S) promised protection. Lesson seven deals with the people whose future GOD knows and declares. Lesson eight deals with ritual performance with true penitence coupled with true acts of justice. Lesson nine deals with GOD'S promise to be present and to restore HIS chosen people after a time of distress.

Unit III, GOD'S Call, and Its Responsibilities, has four lessons from the books of 1 Corinthians, 2 Timothy, James, and 1 Peter. Now in this lesson we will learn that GOD is the One who does the calling, and that the responsibilities of GOD'S call are without regard to the individual's past. Lesson ten deals with and reminds us that GOD'S wisdom is foolishness to people because GOD is the One that chooses those who are neither wise or powerful or of noble birth. Lesson eleven deals with the letter that Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage him to embrace the suffering that comes with the preaching of the Gospel, which is the responsibility of those who are called by GOD with a holy calling.

Lesson twelve deals with the warning against showing favoritism to those who wear fine clothes because in GOD'S economy, the poor receives GOD'S blessing. Lesson thirteen deals with challenging us to check our attitudes and to live as chosen, royal, and holy people who have been called out of darkness into GOD's marvelous light.

Unit I: GOD Prepares the Way

Subject: A Special Promise

Text: Luke 1:8-20

Key Verse:

The angel said unto him, fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John (Luke 1:13, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Duty (Luke 1:8-11)
- 2) Destiny (Luke 1:12-16)
- 3) Doubt (Luke 1:17-20)

Introduction:

Now, we have all experienced, and can recall the memory of someone who broke a promise to us, and how it damage one's faith and confidence in that individual. But we must not mix our confidence in GOD with our disappointment in people. We are to stand on GOD'S Word and hear HIS voice through the uncertainty that the world promises. Now, let it be known, that GOD has begun a good work in you and GOZD will complete it until the day of JESUS CHRIST (Read Philippians 1:6).

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Duty (Luke 1:8-11)

When we are assigned a duty to do it is imperative that we be busy fulfilling our assignment. This is what Zechariah was doing (Luke 1:8). When we perform our duty in the church house of GOD, it shows our faithfulness, because it is GOD who calls us to be faithful and diligence in our work for the Kingdom of GOD, to give HIM (GOD) HIS glory (Luke 1:9). The Temple or the church house is the place where GOD makes HIS presence known to HIS people. It is and should be a tremendous honor, and a sacred privilege to serve in GOD'S Temple or Church house, because this opportunity may only come once in a lifetime. When the time came for the burning of incense, which is a symbol of prayers rising unto GOD, the people came together for corporate prayer (Luke 1:10). Now, do understand that when you have finished your duty or assignment with the Temple or church house, you can expect to be rewarded. Zechariah had completed his task in the Temple, and an angel of the LORD appeared suddenly and stood on the right side of the altar of incense (Luke 1:11).

Lesson Pointer # 2

- Destiny (Luke 1:12-16)

When Zechariah saw the angel of the LORD, he was troubled and filled with fear (Luke 1:12). But GOD will comfort you with HIS words, fear not, for GOD has heard your prayers, and GOD will tell you of your destiny (your purpose), your wife shall bear a son and you are to name him John (Luke 1:13). The child John would bring joy and gladness, and cause many others to rejoice at his birth (Luke 1:14). GOD had destined John to live a holy life as one great in the sight of the LORD, and not to drink of wine or strong drink, this referring to the Nazarite vow. John destiny, the angel explained, would be guided by the very fact that he (John) would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from the womb (Luke 1:15). John destiny was to turn many of the children of Israel to the LORD their GOD (Luke 1:16).

Lesson Pointer # 3

- Doubt (Luke 1:17-20)

John would be filled with the Holy Spirit and his ministry would resemble that of the prophet Elijah's in spirit and power. The truth of the message would prick the hearts of the people, making them ready to receive the LORD (Luke 1:17). But Zechariah doubted the message of the angel of the LORD, and wanted some proof of the angel's claim (Luke 1:18). The angel of the LORD made himself know to Zechariah by saying that he was Gabriel that stands in the presence of GOD; and am sent to speak unto thee (Zechariah), and to shew thee these glad tidings (Luke 1:19). Because Zechariah doubted the message of the LORD, Gabriel rendered Zechariah mute (unable to speak) until the birth of the baby in fulfillment of the LORD'S promise (Luke 1:20).