

“Hope In Time”
Luke 1:5-25; 57-66
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→ Is it really true that “timing is everything”?

When *the fullness of the time* came,
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law
(Gal 4:4)

Hope Is Always Found In God's Time

1. The **SITUATION** in Elizabeth's life vv5-7 HOPE IS DISAPPOINTED

→ What do we learn about Elizabeth here?

- -She is married to a priest and is from a family of priests “daughter of Aaron” v5
- -Her name Elizabeth means “”promise of God”
- -She was “righteous” and “walked blamelessly...” v6
- -BUT ... she was “barren” v7
- -She and her husband were “advanced in years” 7

→ What conclusions might we draw from this list?

2. The **SETTING** for God to work in Elizabeth's life vv8-22 HOPE IS DEMONSTRATED

-it involved her husband's ministry

→ Note the irony: a man with unanswered prayer at the altar of incense

-it included an angelic message: Lots of information in those brief words

- “your wife, Elizabeth”=
- “will bear”=
- “a son”=
- “you will give him the name John”=

→ We too often struggle to take God at His word and believe His promises...
especially in the midst of disappointment and discouragement

→ God is at work behind the scene to accomplish His purpose thru His people in His time!!

3. The **SOLUTION** to the prayer of Elizabeth's life vv23-25; 57-66

HOPE IS DELIVERED

- Elizabeth becomes pregnant
- She recognized that “the Lord has dealt with me” and “looked with favor upon me”
- The Lord had taken away her “disgrace among men”

→ God had chosen to use her lifelong disappointment to reveal Himself ... to display His power ... to provide the waymaker who would introduce the Messiah ... to call His people back to Himself

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME

1. God's time isn't my time but His time is always the right time
HOPE IS ALWAYS FOUND IN GOD'S TIME

2. God uses the disappointments and times of waiting to build qualities into our lives that make us more like Jesus

→ to keep us _____ on Him . . .
to keep us _____ ...
to keep us living by _____ not by sight

3. God's delays do not always mean God's denials

- ❖ When we pray a prayer that is not **right**, God will say, “_____.”
- ❖ When we pray a prayer and we are not **right**, God will say, “_____.”
- ❖ When we pray a prayer and the timing is not **right**, God will say, “_____.”
- ❖ But, when we pray a prayer and all is **right**, God will say, “_____.”

4. You can always trust God's timing . . . do you?

You can always trust God's timing because Hope is always found in HIS time

→ I love this old chorus:

In His time, in His time
He makes all things beautiful in **His time**
Lord, please show me everyday
As you're teaching me your way
That you do just what you say
In Your time.

In Your time, in Your time
You make all things beautiful in **Your time**
Lord, my life to you I bring
May each song I have to sing
Be to you a lovely thing
In Your time