

Sermon: Rejoice in the Tender Mercies of God.
Series: *The Weary World Rejoices.*

Scripture: Luke 1:57-80.
Date: December 11, 2022

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Can you relate to Zechariah or Elizabeth in this story? In what ways?
- b) Has God ever used a period of “silence” to change your heart? Has God been using silence or waiting to condition your heart for more of him? In what ways?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Look at verses 67-80 together. What truths about God and his salvation in these verses cause you to rejoice?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) How do verses 67-80 point to our need for Jesus and his cross? OR...how do they show that we can't save ourselves? Why is this such an important truth for us to embrace?
- b) Re-read verses 77-79. In what way have you experienced the tender mercies of God in Christ recently? How do you receive God's forgiveness and mercy each day?

APPLICATION

- a) Pastor Akin suggested two questions that husbands can ask their wives: 1) What has God been showing you about the direction of our family/ministry? 2) If there is one thing that I can do right now to bless/help you, what is it?
- b) Is there an area of your life where the opinions of people outweigh the opinions of God? Is there an area of your life where you need to replace opinions about yourself with the mercy of God?

FIGHTER VERSES: LUKE 1:46-49.

PRAYER

- Thank God for his salvation!
- Confess ways that you have let other's opinions replace the declaration of God in your life.
- Thank Jesus for being your champion that brings forgiveness and mercy to your life.
- Ask God to help you rejoice in your salvation this week.