

Jesus- The significance of silence.

Silence can be awkward with people together.

Silence can feel like an indictment if you have disappointed someone.

Silence can cause anxiety as our worst of fears are considered.

Silence can be powerful if you allow it as an opportunity to consider, observe, and seek with expectancy.

Zechariah's heart is exposed. Luke 1:5-20

- He was a righteous man commended by God. (5)
- He was going through the motions of religious duty. (9)
- He had been praying for a child, but not with belief that God could or would. (13)
- Even an angel startling him and revealing a private prayer did not cause him to celebrate or be relieved. (12)
- He wanted to be CERTAIN—he needed faith. (18)

“...How shall I know for certain?” NASB

- He and Elizabeth were old.
- So was Abraham and Sarah.
- He knew that history speaks of God's capacity, but he did not accept it for himself.
- He was simply cynical in his disbelief.
- So, he was made silent for 9 months. (20)

What silence can produce from within.

- God had been silent for 400 years.
- God's silence will expose a diligent faith or a cynical spirit in us.
 - This provided a season of expectancy as forced generations to study messianic prophecies and be constantly prepared for the messiah's coming.

- Through study of the past and of the prophetic future, you learn the heart of God and the depravity of humanity.
- In the end of such journey of pursuing him, you either become cynical of his reality or you by faith go forward with expectancy of his promises being fulfilled.
- With time, apathy becomes our greatest enemy.
 - We pray and live without expecting his response. Just going through the motions.
 - We pray and live with a storyline in mind that really isn't supernatural or divine but rather more humanlike.
 - We basically become religious in identity only but not in heart and mind.
- God becomes a stranger.
 - When God speaks, we dismiss it because we have numbed out or it doesn't fit our humanized profile for God.

Silence becomes the teacher. Luke 1:21-22, 57-66

- Yearning to speak.
 - Writing only is not satisfying.
 - Wanting to be heard.
 - Frustration with others not patient with you.
- Your voice is part of your presence.
- Belief and obedience were key to his redemption.
- Words become intentional and precious.

When silence breaks. Luke 1:67-79

- Praise God for who he is.
- Praise God for his promises.
- Praise God that he forgives, saves, and guides.