

Zechariah's Silence

Luke 1:68-79



Have you ever lost your voice?

Several years ago, I was so sick that I lost my voice for three days. I'm an extrovert who loves to talk with others, and it was hard to lose the ability to speak. I had so much to say! As hard as it was during those few days, I learned the values of being silent, thinking, and listening. It is something I have tried to practice more regularly since.

When Zechariah heard the prophecy of his son John's birth from the angel Gabriel, he did not believe it (Luke 1:18). As a result, Gabriel told him that he would be silent until his son was born. Zechariah lost his voice and was unable to speak during his wife Elizabeth's entire pregnancy.

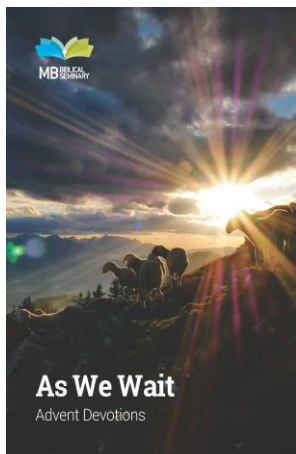
I only experienced three days; Zechariah endured months of silence. We can only imagine how much Zechariah wanted to say during that time! He had received an amazing promise from God and was probably excited to meet his son. When John was born, and Zechariah was finally able to speak again, his mouth uttered what is now known as "Zechariah's Song" which we read today.

Here is what I love so much about this song: Zechariah's silence began because of his doubt in God, but it was broken by his complete adoration and amazement of who God is and what He would do through John. Instead of focusing on himself, Zechariah used the first moments with his voice to praise God.

In some ways, the silence that Zechariah was forced into really can be understood as a gift. As he waited for his silence to end, he was able to truly contemplate and listen to the words of God in a way that he missed initially. That time of silent waiting truly prepared him to receive the fullness of God's promise.

How can you use silence and contemplation to help you prepare to receive Christ and the promise of God this Advent?

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This devotion appears in MB Seminary's 2018 Advent devotions book called ***As We Wait***. Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, this book will guide you through 24 daily readings, written by members of the Mennonite Brethren family throughout Canada ([view the Table of Contents](#)). These devotionals are written for people of various ages so that families and small groups can interact with the ideas and consider applications together.

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