

**“Say What?”**  
Luke 1: 57-80

**The Birth of John the Baptist**

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

**Zechariah’s Song**

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and has redeemed his people.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David

<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—

<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

<sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Luke 1: 57-80 (NIV)