

A desert landscape with a bright sun and the word LUKE in large letters.

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

“Too Good to be True”

Luke 1:18-25

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Intro: God broke His 400 year *silence* via the angel, Gabriel’s visit and announcement to *Zachariah*
God routinely chooses the *ordinary* to bring about the *extraordinary*.

He calls and *equips* ordinary, fallible men to accomplish His *sovereign* plans.

There is a vast difference between asking *how* a thing is going to happen and asking for a *sign* to verify the word spoken.

Zachariah’s *doubt* was caused by taking his eyes off *God* and looking at his own *frail* condition.

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I. We All Struggle with Doubt

Only the practice of *faith*, resulting in the *habit* of faith will quell the dilemma of doubt.

A. Doubt is a struggle for the Righteous

The basis of *faith* is in divine revelation; the basis of doubt is in *human* reason.

B. Doubt is the product of a Sinful Heart

Zachariah's *doctrine* was good; it was his *heart* that was the source of his *doubt*.

Doubt is not a problem of *evidence*, but of a *sinful* heart.

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I. We All Struggle with Doubt

C. Doubt is Often Preceded by Disappointment.

Taking a “wait and *see*” attitude is essentially *doubting* God.

In His mercy, our *faithlessness* does not hinder God’s *ability* to bless us.

II. The Solution for Doubt

God is *sovereign*; He does what He *promises* in His *time* and His *way*.

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II. The Solution for Doubt

A. Believing in the Prophetic Word.

With the story of Zachariah and Mary, God *announced* what He was going to *do*, Then He *did* it.

Malachi's *prophecy* regarding the *forerunner* of Christ and the return of Elijah, *fulfilled* in John, testifies to God's *trustworthiness*.

B. Submitting to His Loving Discipline

We are *disciplined* in order to share in His *holiness*.

Zachariah's discipline was *appropriate*. It tells us that *doubt* has nothing to *say*; faith opens the *heart* and lips in *praise* to God.