

Table Talk Questions Questions to Ponder

(1) Why do you think people tend to focus on the negative in their life?

(2) This past week Pastor Gary said: "Your life will follow where you focus." Where have you experienced this in your life?

(3) As you prepare for Christmas what do you find yourself focusing on?

(4) Read Luke 1:11-17. It's important to move toward things that keep us from getting stuck. What do you think we should be moving toward?

So, This Christmas!

An Advent Sermon Series Turn Towards

December 4, 2022 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

In Your Bible:
Matthew 3:1-2

Thought for the Day:
Christmas is still Christmas

Introduction

1. Your Life Will Follow Where You Focus.

A. Moving towards _____ keeps you from focusing on what you don't.

B. Focusing on what you don't want keeps you from _____.

→ **What are you moving towards?**

C. When we get stuck God often _____.
Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

2. The Message of the Angel to John the Baptist's Parents.

Luke 1:8-17

One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

A. John would help move more _____.

B. This Christmas our goal should be to _____:

→ **God.**

Luke 1:16-17

And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.

→ **Others.**

Luke 1:17

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.

Romans 15:13

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

→ **A Purpose.**

Luke 1:17

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.

1 Corinthians 15:58

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

Conclusion