



FEAR NOT: Hope is Risky Business

December 4, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Heather Zempel

Scripture: Luke 1:5-13

Sermon Overview:

God's promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth seemed like it came too late. In the face of disappointment, they played the long game. In the face of a promise delayed, they dared to hope again. Meanwhile, God was setting the stage for his kingdom to invade earth.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What have you been waiting on God to do?
2. How has this waiting affected you?
3. Why must you trade fear of the unknown for faith in the unseen?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. Like Zechariah, we can be fearful that our promises will not come to pass and then become disappointed/hopeless in our circumstances or even our trust in God. When have you let this type of fear cause you to walk in disappointment or hopelessness?
2. Many prayers or questions of Bible prophets and psalmists have said, 'how long...' When have you said, prayed or thought, "how long' because you had not received a long awaited answer to prayer? When have you had to face disappointment so that you would not give up on seeing the promise come to pass?

3. God sees the big picture. He is strategic and intentional. Share how your faithfulness in waiting turned into a “one day” moment, conversation or decision that changed the trajectory of your life.

Dig Deeper:

1. How can you begin or continue to believe the impossible again?
2. Get in the Word and speak life over your circumstances, social views, children or other people.
3. Find someone around you that needs to borrow your faith and give it to them. Pray over them every day this week.
4. What step(s) can you take to embrace Jesus in a new way this season?

Practical Application:

- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Join a small group ncc.re/groups to discover ways you can use your talents and passions to serve the various church campuses in-person and online.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Schedule a Sozo* Inner Healing session for 2023; email sozo@national.cc. *Sozo means Saved, Healed, Delivered and appears several times in the Bible. For more info about our Sozo ministry, visit: national.cc/care-prayer/prayer