

Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday - Scripture: Luke 1: 1-38

A verse that speaks to you: Luke 1:18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God.

Observation: Zechariah, a priest, and his wife, Elizabeth, lived in a time when having children was everything, yet after praying and praying for a child, Elizabeth was still barren. Having a child was probably their hearts' dearest desire, but they were both well past their childbearing years. Yet Zechariah prayed on. When an angel comes to Zechariah and tells him that God is answering their prayers, and he and his wife are to have a child, Zechariah does not believe him at first! He questions how he can be sure about God's miracle, because he and Elizabeth are so old. Later in this chapter, a verse reminds us that NOTHING is impossible for God. How wonderful to be reminded that even men of God have questions and are human in their responses. I often wonder what I would say if an angel appeared to me with a message from God. We may believe in prayer, yet sometimes God's power is so awesome that even we cannot believe the miracles He is capable of. How exciting in verse 37 to be reminded that God can do ANYTHING, nothing is impossible for Him!

Application: I relate so much with Zechariah's experiences. When I was 16, I was told that I could never have children. It is a very hard thing for anyone to hear, but especially for a 16-year-old, who loved children as much as I did. So many thoughts went through my mind. Would I ever be able to find someone who loved me enough to not leave me if he found I couldn't have children? I have a "fixer" personality, but I had no idea how I was going to fix this! Well, I met my husband, and told him about my infertility, and he decided we would work through it together. Whatever was in store for us, we would be OK.

So, to make a long story short, Elmer married us 17 years ago. After 2 years of infertility treatments, years and years of prayer, and a rollercoaster of emotions, I realized that while I had to do everything I could to improve my chances, I had to put this in God's hands. You see, I was always ASKING Him for a child, but never really accepting that He would or could give me one. Then the day came that my husband Rod, said we had to quit trying. That I was emotional wreck. That we needed to put it in God's hands once and for all. One month later, I was pregnant!

Just like Zechariah, Rod did not believe my first pregnancy test, and made me take 3 other ones before he would start to believe that it was true. And let me tell you, when God gives you a miracle, He GIVES you a miracle. I often think God has quite a sense of humor! Nine months later our first son, Derick was born, 12 pounds 1 ounce and 23 inches long! Two years later, our second son, Steven came into the world 4 weeks early and weighed 9 pounds. If he hadn't come early, he would have weighed over 13 pounds! Our 2 miracle babies!

I firmly believe in miracles. Not only is nothing IMPOSSIBLE for God, but He truly wants us to ask Him for miracles and then BELIEVE in the unlimited power He has. Don't be surprised when He answers your prayers in ways that you never even dreamed possible!

Prayer: Dear Father, I thank you that you are such a powerful, loving God. Help me to remember to not only turn to you in prayer, but to expect an answer! I need to know that with you, Lord, NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE! Please help me to remember to be grateful for all of the miracles that you do for me. In your Son's holy name I pray, Amen!

Writer: Monali Simmons - My husband is Rod Simmons. We were married at Eastminster 17 years ago. Our sons are Derick (15) and Steven (12) Matheson. I became a born again Christian when I was 12, and have always been active in the church. Our family has faced many challenges, and given many miracles. Five years ago Rod was critically injured in an accident. He will never fully recover, but the fact that he is here is a miracle. Recently, I have been diagnosed with hydrocephalus and strokes. These problems have taught me to enjoy each day as a miracle, and a gift from God.