

December 5th

Zacharias is processing that he will have a son in his old age. But not just any son. A promised son.

God had promised a prophetic light in the world before His Promised Light.

Malachi 4:5-6 – Behold, I will send you _____ the _____ before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will _____ the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, ...

A man anointed by God to affect men's hearts back to Him and His truth.

Luke 1:16 – And he will _____ many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God

A man purposed by God "to make ready a people _____ for the Lord" (**Luke 1:17b**), for His new lifestyle and ministry of love. Because the Messiah was coming soon after this new Elijah, to turn the religious establishment on its ear and to wipe away the hundreds of rules Israel was being forced to follow.

And this new Elijah was the crucial first step in God's plan to open the ears and hearts of His beloved people.

Luke 1:17 – He will also go before Him in the _____ and _____ of Elijah, 'to _____ the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make _____ a people prepared for the Lord.

A man destined from before birth to have divine influence, divine inspiration, and divine integrity.

Luke 1:15 – For he will be _____ in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the _____, even from his mother's womb.

A man who will radiate God's love and never hesitate to speak God's truth.

A man with a unique purpose.

A man named before birth by the One who called and purposed him.

Luke 1:13b – and you shall call his name _____

Going Deeper:

1. *Who in Judges 13:1-5,24 has a calling similar to John?*

2. *As a priest, Zacharias would have studied and possibly taught about the new Elijah. So what would he have been thinking during this encounter?*

3. *Why is the heart so important to God? What do Romans 10:9-10 and Proverbs 4:23 tell us?*

4. *God creates each of us with purpose. What is your God-given purpose? How are you walking in it?*

5. *What does it mean to “turn” our heart to God?*

6. *God has given you a sphere of influence. Who has God given you to impact? Are you able to make a positive difference?*
