



Big Idea: When they come into conflict, truth must trump tradition.

1.) Tradition can be a BLESSING (v. 57-58).

- Hebrew parents traditionally announced their baby's name as part of the circumcision ceremony (Genesis 17:12).
- Maintaining family names was an important custom for the Jews, especially the custom of passing the father's name to his first-born son.
- Our traditions are very often very good things, for they can be a great way to express the Word of God in a practical way.

2.) Tradition can be TENACIOUS (v. 59-63).

- For Zechariah, the practice of naming the firstborn son after his father seems to have been a rather tenacious tradition.
- Even though the angel had told Zechariah what his son's name should be, he apparently had not yet decided if he would obey God and name his son John, or if he would honor tradition and name his son Zechariah.
- Why had it taken Zechariah so long to obey God and communicate the baby's God-given name?

-- Here, we see people **INTERPRETING** life through the lens of human tradition rather than the Word of God.

3.) Truth must not be **TRUMPED** by tradition (v. 60).

-- While the crowd was clinging to tradition, Elizabeth was contending for God's new course.

-- Whenever tradition and truth come into conflict, God's Word must always win the day (Colossians 2:8).

-- Truth is the reality of God and His will derived directly from what He has revealed in His **WORD** and in Creation.

-- A tradition, in its best and purest form, is a particular human expression of obedience to or participation in truth (Psalm 150:3-6).

-- Far too often, there are far too many churchgoers who treat their traditions and preferences as if they were codified in the Bible.

4.) God's blessings will not be fully **EXPERIENCED** until His truth is fully **BELIEVED** (v. 63-79).

-- Not only had Zechariah's unbelief taken his voice, but it appears it had hampered his hearing as well.

-- The more entrenched we are in human tradition, the less effective we will be in making our message known.

-- When determined to do things our own way, we tend to tune out the voice of God, listening instead to the pull of our own preferences.

- When we are willing to make our traditions and preferences secondary to God's Word, then the joy of faith can find a foothold in our hearts.
- When Zechariah finally affirmed the command of God, his voice returned, and his praises of God could once again be heard.
- Because he heard and obeyed God, the Holy Spirit gives Zechariah glorious insight into the **GOSPEL** of Jesus Christ (v. 67-79).