

Daily Reflections

ADVENT

The Divine Intervention



December 23, 2016

Scripture

Luke 1:57-66

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son.

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.

When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John."

But they answered her,

"There is no one among your relatives who has this name."

So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.

Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.

Then fear came upon all their neighbors,

and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."

Our Scripture Reflection

Our God always manages to shake up the "best laid plans of mice and men." Jeremiah was just a young man doing what young Israelite men did back then when God said, "You are to be my prophet." No matter how hard he tried to argue his way out of it, God had His way. Zechariah and Elizabeth were quite used to the fact that they were both elderly and childless, after all Elizabeth was barren. But God said, I beg to differ and nine months later came John. In today's text, the couple is going through the normal ritual of having the baby circumcised and named. It was established tradition that the boy would be named after his father. But whereas Zechariah had previously refused to accept God's word about the conception of his baby, now both he and his wife follow the command to name the baby John. Christmas reminds us that God will always have His way and that way is not our way quite often, thank God!

Food for your Journey

Your beliefs will be the light by which you see, but they will not be what you see, and they will not be a substitute for seeing.

— Flannery O'Connor

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Like Zachariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, may I surrender my will to Your will and trust You in all things. Amen.

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