

## Sermon Summary

December 7, 2025—

Second Sunday in Advent

“Silence that Prepares Us for Peace”

**Luke 1:57–66**

Luke 1:57–66 tells of Zechariah, a faithful priest, and Elizabeth, his wife, who longed for a child. Into their disappointment, after centuries of God's apparent silence, the angel Gabriel announced that Elizabeth would bear a son. Yet Zechariah doubted. Even with an angel standing before him, he wanted proof. His disbelief led to a season of silence, a divinely given “time-out,” until John's birth.

This is where we see the **Fallen Condition Focus**: like Zechariah, we often fill our lives with noise and cynicism, struggling to trust God's promises when they seem impossible. We want guarantees before we commit. We are quick to explain away God's presence, and we resist the quiet spaces where faith might grow.

But God used Zechariah's silence as preparation. In the stillness, Zechariah learned to trust. When the child was finally born and named John, Zechariah's tongue was loosed and his first words were praise. Out of silence came song. Out of doubt came faith.

Daniel Darling writes, *“Sometimes God has to quiet us so we can hear Him. Sometimes we have to be still so we can see Him move. Sometimes our words and our busyness get in the way of our faith. They form a cynical shell around our hearts.”*\* In Advent, this is our invitation—to let God break through our shell of disbelief with the hope of Christ.

Here is the **Fulfillment in Christ**: God has not left us in silence. In Jesus, the long night is broken. Christ is the Word made flesh, the Light shining in the darkness, the Prince of Peace who answers our doubts with his presence. Where Zechariah's silence prepared the way for John, Christ himself is God's final Word—the voice that brings peace and the promise that God has indeed remembered his people.

The season of Advent calls us to wait well, to embrace moments of quiet, and to trust that even when we cannot see it, God is faithful. Advent is not about noise and proof; it is about hope, silence, and the peace we find in Christ.

\*Darling, Daniel. *The Characters of Christmas: The Unlikely People Caught Up in the Story of Jesus* (p. 42). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.