

Blessings & Pain

Sunday
April 26th, 2009

Blessings & Pain

- To be blessed means to experience God's joy
- To experience pain is to suffer emotional discomfort and/or distress
- Zechariah & Elizabeth and Mary & Joseph all experienced both joy and pain

Luke 1: 5 20

- The time of Herod was a dark time
- Zechariah (priest) married to Elizabeth (daughter of a priest)
- They were righteous and obedient before God
- Yet they were childless - much pain and humiliation
- God gave them a son - John the Baptist
- The blessing came after much pain

Luke 1: 26 38

- The blessing of giving birth to the Messiah
- The pain of opposition, a sword piercing Mary's soul (2:35)
- The humiliation and gossip that Joseph and Mary would experience

Lessons -

- God is at work - even in dark times
- All people carry pain in their lives
- We are called to remain faithful in the midst of disappointments
- Ultimately God will triumph