

The Song of the Great Reversal of Fortunes

Luke 1:5-56

I. The story of two lives in the Christ Revolution:

	John	Jesus
Appearance of angel	1:11	1:28
Person is troubled	1:12	1:29
"Do not fear"	1:13	1:30
Announcement of birth	1:13	1:31
Naming of child	1:13	1:31
Person's question	1:18	1:34
Angel's answer	1:19	1:35
Reaction	1:22	1:38

II. We have a God who knows how to deal with our shame.

A. The difference between shame and guilt is this: we feel guilty over what we do. We feel shame over who we are.

B. Leading candidates for shame include:

1. The overly responsible
2. The compulsive comparer
3. The approval addict
4. Those condemned by their sin
5. Those condemned by being sinned against

III. We have a God who pays close attention to the ordinary and the insignificant.

IV. The basis of our great God's redemption plan is His mercy.

Study Questions for December 20

1. Read Luke 1:5-25, 57-80.
2. What comparisons and contrasts can you make of the scene in 1:5-25 and John's birth announcement and Jesus' birth announcement in 1:26-38? In what ways is Jesus made greater by comparison?
3. Read 1:57-80 in light of 2:21-35. How else does Luke connect these stories other than they are both associated with the circumcisions of John and Jesus?
4. What promises are announced in Zechariah's song in 1:68-79? What is the basis of Zechariah's trust in God to bring them to fruition?