

**CHRISTMAS**  
**When It's Not Very Merry**  
**Pastor Vernie Fletcher**  
**December 22, 2013**

**Luke 1:5-10 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

<sup>6</sup> Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

<sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God,

<sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

<sup>10</sup> And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

**Luke 1:26-31 (NIV)**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

<sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

**Luke 1:57-60 (NIV)**

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

<sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah,

<sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

**Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.