

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> December 10, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> St. Luke 1: 67-80
<b>Topic:</b> Christmas: Comfort and Joy in the Lord...For Lords – The Strong	

There are quite a few quotations that relate specifically to men.

*“The average man does not want to be free. He simply wants to be safe.”* - H.L. Mencken

*“Freedom is like taking a bath; you have to keep doing it every day.”* - Florence Kennedy

*“A Christian man is the most free of all, and subject to none. A Christian man is the most dutiful of all, and subject to everyone.”* - Martin Luther the Reformer

*“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* – Jesus Christ

An important question that needs to be asked is do men want to be free?

This particular text is referred to as the “Benedictus” or Zechariah’s Song. It is one of three Songs of Praises associated with the Christmas Story, the other two being the “Magnificat” or Mary’s Song in Luke 1:46-55 and the “Nunc Dimittis” which is Simeon’s Song found in Luke 2:29-32. In the passage Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, after agreeing to his name, which means, God is gracious, is able to speak.

As the Holy Spirit comes upon him he breaks into song. The song seems to speak of praising God for:

- His Mercy to His people
- Through The Might of His Prince
- Being Mindful of His Promises

In verses 67-75, Luke seems to point to a [Freedom from Detesters](#), and suggests that there is liberty through the Spirit...

- ◆ To sing of the Moment (verse 68)
- ◆ To sing of the Man (verses 69-70)
- ◆ To sing of the Meaning (verses 71-75), broken down into deliverance received (71), descendants remembered (72-73) and difficulty removed (74-75).

This is a call to men to see that men are *free to pursue Prosperity*. This demands men to Access Success in The Lord because the fact is that there is Help in the Name of The Lord.

Verses 76-79 seem to suggest a [Freedom from Destroyer](#), demonstrated through:

- ◆ Prelude: Greater is Coming (verses 76-77a)
- ◆ Pardon: Grace is Coming (verses 77b-78)
- ◆ Possibilities: Good is Coming (verse 79)

This is a call for men to see that man is *free to pursue Peace*. This demands that men Access Serenity in The Lord because there is Hope in the Name of The Lord.

In the final verse of this text (verse 80), Luke speaks of a [Freedom from Discouragers](#). He encourages that we become strong inwardly (80a) through isolation with God (80b) in order to become an instrument of God (80c). This is a call for men to see that they are *free to pursue the Path* to which God has called them. This demands of man to Access Servanthood in The Lord because there is Honor in The Name of The Lord.

Men can find comfort and Joy at Christmas as through Christ men are free to gather, to grow and to give. This requires that men should allow themselves through Christ to feel, to flourish and to be faithful.