



## SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

### Re(capturing) Belief

#### Three Questions to Recapturing Belief:

##### I. What is the cause of my doubt?

Luke 1:1-4 (ESV)

*In as much as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.*

- Christmas is a real story, from real places, in a real time with real eyewitness evidence.
- Simply Christmas belief occurs when the inexplicable meets the undeniable.

Luke 1:5-7 (ESV)

*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*

- Doubt in the present is often a result of past disappointment.

- Doubt says my bitter past trumps the promises and power of a sovereign God!

##### 2. What is the cost of my doubt? (Luke 1:8-20)

- Doubt won't stop the promises of God; only keep me from enjoying them.

##### 3. What is the cure for doubt?

- Belief is re(captured) when I trust in the goodness of God! (Luke 1:24-25; Luke 1:76-79)
- Belief is re(captured) when I obey the will of God!

Luke 1:57-66 (ESV)

*Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup> but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup> And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup> And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup> And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup> And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup> and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.*

- In what area of my life has doubt led to disobedience?