

Harmony of the Gospels
Part 2
“He Will Turn Our Hearts”

In medical terms, a Heart Murmur is most often caused by defective heart valves.

A heart valve has a smaller-than-normal opening and can't open completely. A valve may also be unable to close completely.



This leads to **regurgitation, of the blood**, leaking backward through the valve when it should be closed.

Murmur: By Dictionary definition is:

“A continuous low sound that often seems to be coming from some distance away.”

“A complaint, especially one that is not made openly...”

When Moses led 2.5 million people out of 400 years of slavery in Egypt, you would think that these people would be so grateful for their new lives, that they would be willing to endure any hardship, to be free.

- ☞ **And yet** as the Lord led them through the desert, they began to Murmur and complain against the Lord.

Exodus 16:2-3

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel **complained** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

3 And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

People delivered from death, from slavery, from hopelessness, into a brand new life.

- ☞ **And after just a short time in their new life**, they already had began to complain against, **murmur against**, the very Lord who had just delivered them.
- ☞ **I am sure glad** that today, we who have been delivered from our former destiny of eternal death, hopelessness and slavery, that we don't complain against the Lord now that we are free....

“You know you're getting older when your memory is shorter and your complaining is longer” **Have we forgotten how Good the Lord is?**

Every one of us knows that we are just like the 2.5 million people that God delivered, we find things to complain about everyday in our life, despite how richly the Lord has ALREADY blessed us.

- ☞ All our sins are forgiven.
- ☞ Heaven is already our home.
- ☞ We are loved and accepted by our God.
- ☞ We will reign with Jesus.
- ☞ We will have fullness of Joy and pleasures forevermore...

But Lord, why is this happening to me right now in my life?

“On one hand we can complain that **we never have enough time** to do what we need to do, but when things are difficult for us, we complain that **it is taking too much time** for the Lord to finish the trial.”

Sometimes, no matter what is happening in our lives, we can find a reason to complain about it...

A customer was constantly complaining to the waiter in a restaurant.

First, he asked that the air conditioning be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked it be turned down cause he was too cold, and so on for about half an hour.

Surprisingly, the waiter was very patient, he walked back and forth and never once got angry.

Finally, a second customer asked the waiter why he didn't throw out the pest.

"Oh, I really don't mind," said the waiter with a smile. **"We don't even have an air conditioner."**

The real problem for all of us, is not really our circumstances, or the problems that we all go through, the real problem is that all of us have **“A Heart Murmur”**.

- ☞ **It is how our heart looks** at our circumstances that is the real problem.
- ☞ **It is how we react** to what is going on in our lives that determines how happy we are.
- ☞ **I have met people** who **have very little** in this life, suffer **from medical problems, live all alone**, and by most of our standards, they should be miserable, but they are not.

Their philosophy is **“The best thing to do when it is raining, is let it rain...”**

1 Timothy 6:6

Now godliness with contentment is great gain

The secret to real contentment, is to just really Live for Jesus, and be content with what you have and where you are at...

For all of human existence, every person that has been born on this earth, suffers from this same fallen condition: "A heart Murmur", **we love to complain.**

Just before Jesus was born, the people during those days, were not any different.

- ⊞ **For 400 years**, from the end of the Old Testament prophet Malachi, the Lord had seemingly not spoken a single word to Israel or Gods people.
- ⊞ **They thought** that **the Lord had forgotten them.**
- ⊞ **It seemed as though** in the midst of their trials and difficulties, **the Lord didn't care.**

But He did care, and in fact, when it looked to Gods people like He had forgotten them completely, in reality He had been working in their lives in the background all along, they just could see it.

- ⊞ **Today, in your life**, it might seem as though the Lord is not working in your life.
- ⊞ **Maybe your health or finances or loneliness**, family problems or work difficulties seem to go on and on, and you are wondering where is the Lord?

He's working, don't you lose your confidence in Him yet. He will still deliver you, just wait a little while longer, give Him so more time.

Just when the people of Israel were about to give up on the Lord ever coming to deliver them...in the very last Book of the Old Testament, the Lord made this promise to them...

Malachi 4:5,6

5 Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." NKJV

Even though 400 years had gone by, with not one word from the Lord, He still kept His promise.

- ⊞ **Even though you have waited for the Lord** to help you, **hang on**, deliverance is coming for you...

Don't allow that definition of murmuring to be yours: “A continuous low sound coming from some distance away., A complaint, especially one that is not made openly...” **don't allow that to start coming from your heart**

Psalms 42:11

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God

In Israel, they had lost hope, and yet, about to be born, were two men, who would turn all of us, all of our hearts, back to our Father again...

What you may not realize is the John the Baptist was an Old Testament prophet.

1. **Most of us think of the old testament as ending with the book of Malachi**, the last book in the old testament.
2. **But actually, from heavens viewpoint**, the Old Testament period would not be concluded until **one last prophet would come**, to announce the arrival of Gods savior to planet earth.

Matthew 11:7,11

7 When John the Baptists disciples had gone, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. **"Who is this man in the wilderness that you went out to see?"** Did you find him weak as a reed, moved by every breath of wind?

8 Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? Those who dress like that live in palaces, not out in the wilderness.

9 Were you looking for a prophet? **Yes**, and **he is more than a prophet**.

10 **John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, 'Look, I am sending my messenger before you, and he will prepare your way before you.'**

Here, Jesus is confirming the fact that John the Baptist is “Elijah”, that was to come.

Then, Jesus goes on to say of John the Baptist:

11 **"I assure you, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the most insignificant person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!"**
NLT

What was Jesus saying?

1. **There has never been anyone born as a human being up to that point**, that is greater than John the Baptist.
2. **And yet, the most insignificant person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist.**
3. **The idea then**, is that John the Baptist is not included in this new classification of Gods people called, “**The kingdom of heaven**”.

The next question then is, “When did the kingdom of heaven begin”?

It begins when the next part of our study this morning in the Harmony of the Gospels continues...

[Matthew 3:1,2](#) JOHN THE BAPTIST MESSAGE WAS:

1...In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**" NKJV

[Matthew 4:17](#) JESUS MESSAGE WAS THE SAME:

17 **From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** NKJV

So, according to the text in Matthew, “**the kingdom of heaven**”, is a new class of God’s people, and it began when Jesus came.

- ⊖ **Who then, are the people included** in this new “*kingdom of heaven*”? , everyone who receives Jesus as their Savior, and Lord.
 - ⊖ **So, the church, Jesus body**, they are also called, “the members of the kingdom of heaven”
 - ⊖ **John the Baptist then, was not included in the church**, he was from “*The old testament prophet*” classification.
1. **If Israel had accepted John the Baptists message**, then John would have fulfilled the prophecies literally about Elijah coming before the savior.
 2. **Because Israel rejected Jesus as their messiah**, John was only able to fulfill the prophecy of the coming of Elijah before the messiah, in “**A spiritual sense**”.

The next part of our story of Jesus life really begins with one of Jesus relatives: Zechariah and Elizabeth

[Luke 1:5, through 2:40](#)

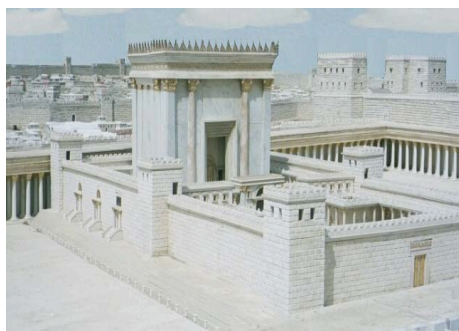
5 Zechariah, lived when Herod was king of Judea. Zechariah was a member of the priestly order of Abijah. His wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron.

6 Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations.

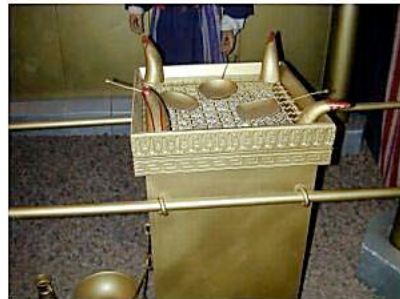
7 **They had no children because Elizabeth was barren**, and now they were both very old.

1. **The priest** in Israel, that served in the temple, took turns.
2. **They each had a two week period**, when they were allowed to go into the temple and serve.
3. **There were, what is called, “26 courses of priests”**, that is 26 priest were appointed to serve in the temple, each with a 2 week period.
4. **These 26 priests**, each serving 2 weeks, filled up the entire 52 week year.

5. **The priests**, each drew straws to see which ministries they would perform, while in the temple.
6. **This particular year**, Zechariah, “**just happen to be chosen**”, to offer up the incense in the “**Holy of Holies**”.



Herod's Temple, the way it Looked When Jesus was Here



The Priest in the Temple

The Altar of Incense

Golden mercy Seat

7. **This was a very rare occasion**, usually the priest was only allowed to go into the “**Holy of Holies**”, **once in their entire lifetime**.
8. **But being chosen** to offer the incense put Zechariah, into the place where the Ark of the Covenant was, and the “**Golden Mercy Seat**” resided, inside of “**The Holy of Holies**”.
9. **Zechariah**, was inside of where the very presence of God was, when a priest was in the holy of holies, he had **bells around the bottom of his robe**, they had also tied **a rope around his ankle**, if the priest had entered the presence of God there in the holy of holies, with sin not being covered by the sacrifice, they would be struck dead immediately, so if the sound of the bells ever stopped, they knew something had gone wrong, they would then pull out the priest by the rope attached to his ankle!
10. **Zechariah**, would be offering incense during the morning and evening sacrifices.
11. **It seems that it was around the 3:00 p.m. Sacrifice**, that Zechariah is there in the Holy of Holies, offering the incense before the lord, when the **Angel Gabriel** comes to tell John the news of his son, John's birth.

A couple of important points here:

- A. **Zechariah, was an old man by this time, but still had not been able to have a son**, but this whole scenario, was about to change, Zechariah and his wife were about to get “John the Baptist”, as their son, **the lord works in our lives, when we think that it is too late, in circumstances, that we think are impossible.**
- B. **The lord organized the schedule to place Zechariah, exactly in the right place, at the right time, even as he will work in your life, to place you right now, just where you are supposed to be, so that he can work out his plan for your life.**
- C. **The chances of Zechariah being chosen to go into the holy of holies, was nearly impossible**, the lord place Zechariah here in this place, because he was about to send to him, the angels Gabriel, to tell Zechariah, he was about to be the father of John the Baptist, **the lord works in impossible circumstance, he places you in these seemingly impossible circumstances, just so he can work an awesome work in your life, to show you he can do anything if you will trust him.**
- D. **Notice that the time when the lord chose to speak to Zechariah, was when he was the busiest, this Christmas season, while you are so busy, right now, the lord is trying to speak to you, can you hear him?**

Luke 1

8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for **his order was on duty that week**.

9 As was **the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot** to enter the sanctuary and burn incense in the Lord's presence.

10 While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

11 Zechariah was in the sanctuary when **an angel of the Lord** appeared, standing to the right of the incense altar.

12 **Zechariah was overwhelmed with fear.**

13 But the angel said, "**Don't be afraid**, Zechariah! For God has heard your prayer, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son! And you are to name him John.

Are You Afraid Right Now? The Reason That Jesus Has Come To You this morning, Is So That He Can Remove All Fear From Your Life, As You Give Your Life To Him, And He Begins To Take Over Control, As Fear Leaves, And A Deep Sense Of Peace Fills Your Heart!

Luke 1

14 THE ANGEL BEGINS TO TELL ZECHARIAH You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice with you at his birth,

15 for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or hard liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.

16 And he will persuade many Israelites to turn to the Lord their God.

17 He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah, the prophet of old. **He will precede the coming of the Lord, preparing the people for his arrival.** He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will change disobedient minds to accept Godly wisdom."

The baby that the angel is speaking of, will be John the Baptist, who we spoke of at the beginning of our study tonight.

Luke 1

18 Zechariah said to the angel, "**How can I know this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.**"

19 Then the angel said, "**I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God.** It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!

20 And now, since you didn't believe what I said, you won't be able to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly come true at the proper time."

The Lord had brought incredibly good news to Zechariah, **but he was not able to accept it.**

- ☞ **This morning** , the true and living God, **is speaking to you** in the same way He was speaking to Zechariah.
- ☞ **Jesus is the creator**, he made everything that exists, he has come to you today, **to lift all of your burdens and carry them for you.**

He wants to come into your heart right now, and give you his forgiveness, and a brand new life, **will you let him?**

Luke 1

21 **Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out, wondering why he was taking so long.** THEY WERE PROBABLY ABOUT TO PULL THE ROPE?

22 When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures that he must have seen a vision in the Temple sanctuary.

23 **He stayed at the Temple until his term of service was over,** and then he returned home.

24 Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months.

25 "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children!"

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 **In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy,** God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Why was the Lord with Mary?

- ☞ **She was poor, young, had nothing to offer** the lord, no skills, nothing that the world would consider valuable.

And yet, this is exactly the kind of person that the Lord wants to use.

- ☞ **People who don't think** they have anything to offer,
- ☞ **Maybe you think** you are too young, or do not have enough experience.
- ☞ **Perhaps you think** you are too old, and have nothing left to offer, remember Zechariah?

Mary was nobody, just a young girl, from a simple family of no reputation, what made Mary usable by the lord, was that she made herself available to the lord, to use any way he wanted to use her.

Luke 1

29 **Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.**

30 "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "**for God has decided to bless you!**

31 You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus.

32 **He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.**

33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin."

Mary was not doubting the word of the Lord, the way that Zechariah had.

- ☞ **She just didn't understand** how the lord could use her.
- ☞ **She asked** if he could explain to her how this would all happen.

The lord wants for you to ask questions, to seek information about who he is, how he works, what he wants you to do.

- ☞ **He wants your trust in him**, to be based upon intelligence, not blind faith...

Luke 1

35 The angel replied, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.** So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's already in her sixth month.

37 **For nothing is impossible with God."**

What did marry have to do herself, to be used by the Lord?

- ☞ **Absolutely nothing**, just believe, and let him use her.

Notice that it was the holy spirit who would come upon marry, and accomplish all of the work.

- ☞ **If you will just make yourself available to Jesus** He will fill you up with His Holy Spirit, and use you in incredible ways.

Luke 1

38 Mary responded, "**I am the lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants.** May everything you have said come true." and then the angel left.

Notice Mary's response, "*Lord I am just your servant, do with me whatever you want...*"

- ☞ **This is the lords desire for you** in your life, that through everything in your life that you go through, he is always asking you one question...
- ☞ "***Will you trust me?***"

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Luke 1

39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town
40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.

41 At **the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her,** and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Remember This Baby Inside Of Elizabeth Is John The Baptist He Seems To Recognize Jesus Even While In The Womb

- ☞ **John in his mothers womb** is only about **9 inches long**.
- ☞ **He weighs** about 1 1/2 pounds.
- ☞ **His skin is Translucent** so that you can see his organs, veins and muscles through his skin.
- ☞ **He has Fingerprints**, footprints, can open his eyes, **he can feel emotion.**
- ☞ **How do we know?**
- ☞ **As Mary arrives,** 9 inch long John "*Leaps for Joy inside his mothers Womb*"



Luke 1

42 Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "**You are blessed by God above all other women, and your child is blessed.**

43 What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me!

44 **When you came in and greeted me, my baby jumped for joy the instant I heard your voice!**

45 **You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.**"

Elizabeth tells Mary that she was blessed so much by the Lord because why?

- ☞ **Mary just believed** what the Lord said, and she let him use her however He desired...

Now, notice Mary's response to the praise given her, she is not filled with pride, but instead, is humbled that the lord would even consider her!

Mary's Song of Praise

Luke 1

46 **Mary responded, "Oh, how I praise the Lord.**

47 **How I rejoice in God my Savior!**

48 **For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and now generation after generation will call me blessed.**

49 **For he, the Mighty One, is holy, and he has done great things for me.**

50 **His mercy goes on from generation to generation, to all who fear him.**

51 **His mighty arm does tremendous things! How he scatters the proud and haughty ones!**

52 **He has taken princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.**

53 **He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.**

54 **And how he has helped his servant Israel! He has not forgotten his promise to be merciful.**

55 **For he promised our ancestors, Abraham and his children, to be merciful to them forever."**

Here is the heart of a woman, who knows who she is before the Lord, totally surrendered to him, to do what he wishes with her and her life.

☞ **This is what happens** to a woman who totally sells out to Jesus, she will see him do things through her, that will amaze the entire world!

Luke 1

56 **Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months** and then went back to her own home.

Luke 1

The Birth of John the Baptist

57 Now **it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, and it was a boy.**

58 The word spread quickly to her neighbors and relatives that the Lord had been very kind to her, and everyone rejoiced with her.

59 **When the baby was eight days old, all the relatives and friends came for the circumcision ceremony.** They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father.

60 But Elizabeth said, **"No! His name is John!"**

61 "What?" they exclaimed. "There is no one in all your family by that name."

62 So they asked the baby's father, communicating to him by making gestures.

63 He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John!"

64 **Instantly Zechariah could speak again,** and he began praising God.

65 Wonder fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills.

66 Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, "I wonder what this child will turn out to be? For the hand of the Lord is surely upon him in a special way."

Zechariah's Prophecy

67 Then **his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:**

Luke 1

76 "**And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord.**

77 You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

78 Because of God's tender mercy, the light from heaven is about to break upon us,

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

80 **John grew up and became strong in spirit. Then he lived out in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.**

Legend of Elijah's Mantle

- ☞ **There is a legend** that when Elisha died (having inherited Elijah's mantle, **His Coat** (1 Kings 19:19; 2 Kings 2:14; 13:14,19)) **his mantle was placed inside the Golden Altar** (the Altar of Incense).



man□tle n

1. A role or position, especially one that can be passed from one person to another (formal)
2. Something that envelops or covers something else (literary)
3. A loose sleeveless cloak

- ☞ **Remember that Zechariah's turn** to serve in the Temple, was at the Altar of Incense, where the coat was placed.
- ☞ **When Zachariah received the visit of the angel** that he was told to take the mantle with him (cf. Luke 1:17), and **that this was the very mantle that John the Baptist was wearing 30 years later** (Cf. Mark 9:13). 1. John Holland, *Luke 1,9:20*, Word Publishing, Dallas, TX 1989, p.14. 2. *Mishna, Yoma 2:1,5*; Joachim Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*, Fortress Press, Philadelphia, PA *



Zechariah, had blown it the first time, **hadn't he?** But the Lord is not ever finished with us when we blow it.

- ☞ **You might be here this morning**, and you think that you have done things in your life that you could never be forgiven of.
- ☞ **The bible says that "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses a person from every sin..."**
- ☞ **That word "Every"** means just what it says: When Jesus died for you, he took away, as if they had never existed, every sin you have done, and every sin that has been done to you.
- ☞ **If you will call on Jesus name this morning**, He will make you perfect, spotless and clean.

What did Zechariah do, after he was forgiven? He got up, and began to follow the Lord with all of his heart.

- ☞ **Maybe This morning**, you are here, and you are a Christian. You have given your life to Jesus, but you have sinned, or fallen away from Jesus. You have blown it in your walk, well, Join the club!

You are here in a house of people just like you!

- ☞ **But Jesus is ready to forgive you right now, do you want him to?**
- ☞ **In just a few minutes** we are all going to pray together...

Do you need the Lord to cleanse you again this morning?

Have you developed “A heart Murmur”?

Have you been complaining about your circumstances, and the Lord reminded you that He is not finished with you yet?

Did He speak to you and remind you that He has already given you the most incredible gift that you could have ever received...His own precious Son...

That if the Father has already given to you that which means more to Him than anything else in the Universe, will He not also, now that you know Him, also give you every other thing that you need in your life...

Just wait on Him and keep trusting Him...