



LUKE

1 : 57–80

*“The Baptist Church of Franklin exists to make **more** and **better** followers of Jesus Christ.”* — BCF Membership Binder

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. —Galatians 5:22-23a

OBSERVE

- For what sorts of things does Zechariah praise God after his mouth is opened?
- What might be the connection between the present salvation from enemies that Zechariah expects and the oath God swore to Abraham in the past (v. 73)?
- What will be John’s ministry according to this song? What is the relationship between sin and death, and the salvation from enemies declared earlier?

REFLECT and OBEY

1. If comfortable, describe a time that God allowed you to love your enemy.
2. Just last month, Ethiopian military forces surrounded and captured the Tigray region to the north, which had been ruled by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Both the Tigray region and the rest of Ethiopia are majority-Christian. Why might Christians resort to violence against one another like this? How might the “enemy behind the enemy” be at work in situations such as this?
3. How does the gospel grant us salvation from our enemies? From our spiritual enemies? From our human enemies?
4. In the Charles Dickens novel A Christmas Carol, Bob Cratchit proposes a toast to his boss Mr. Scrooge. Though his wife repeatedly insults his employer, Bob simply responds each time, “My dear...Christmas Day.” What is it about Christmas that might inspire Bob to such a gentle reply?