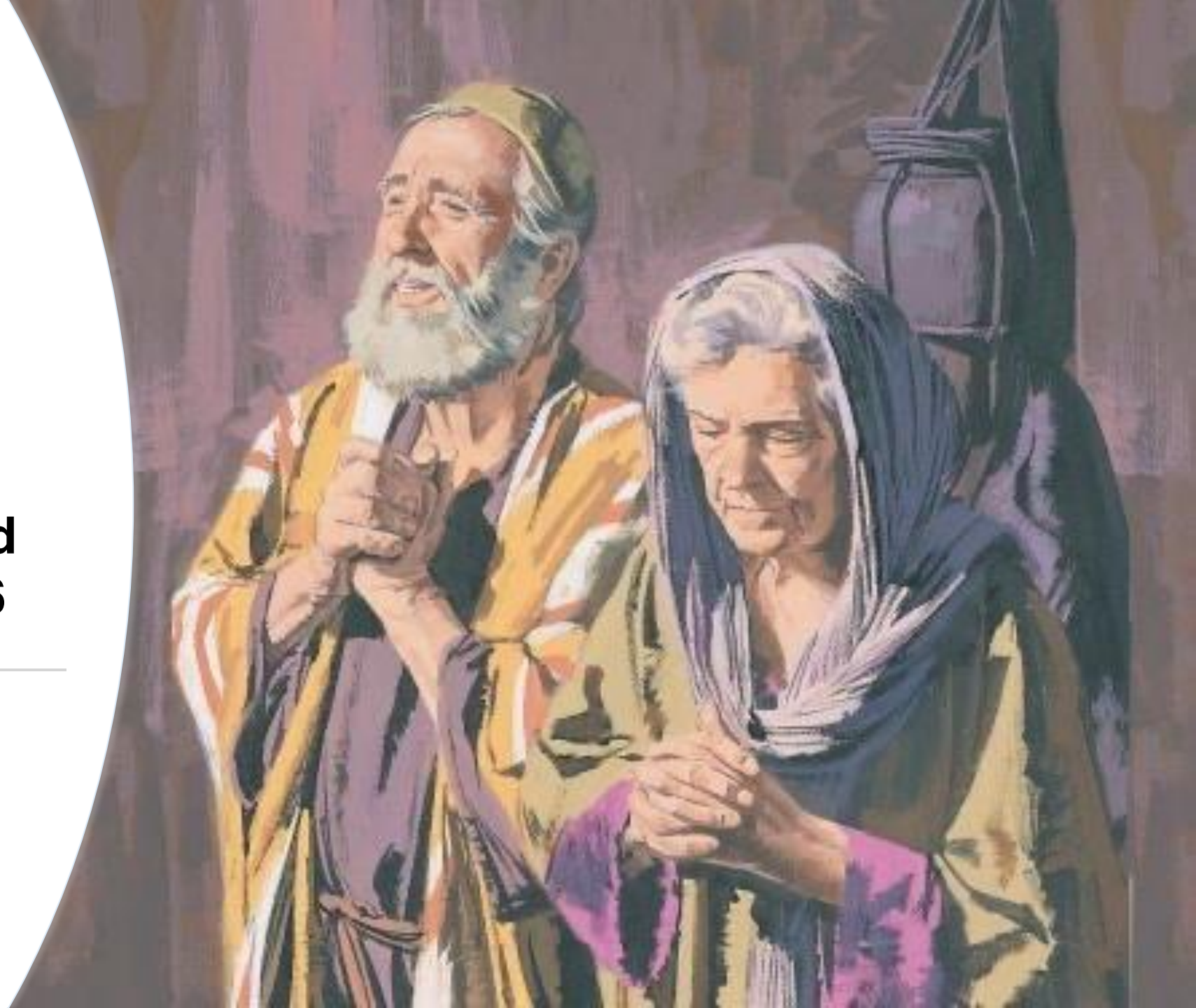
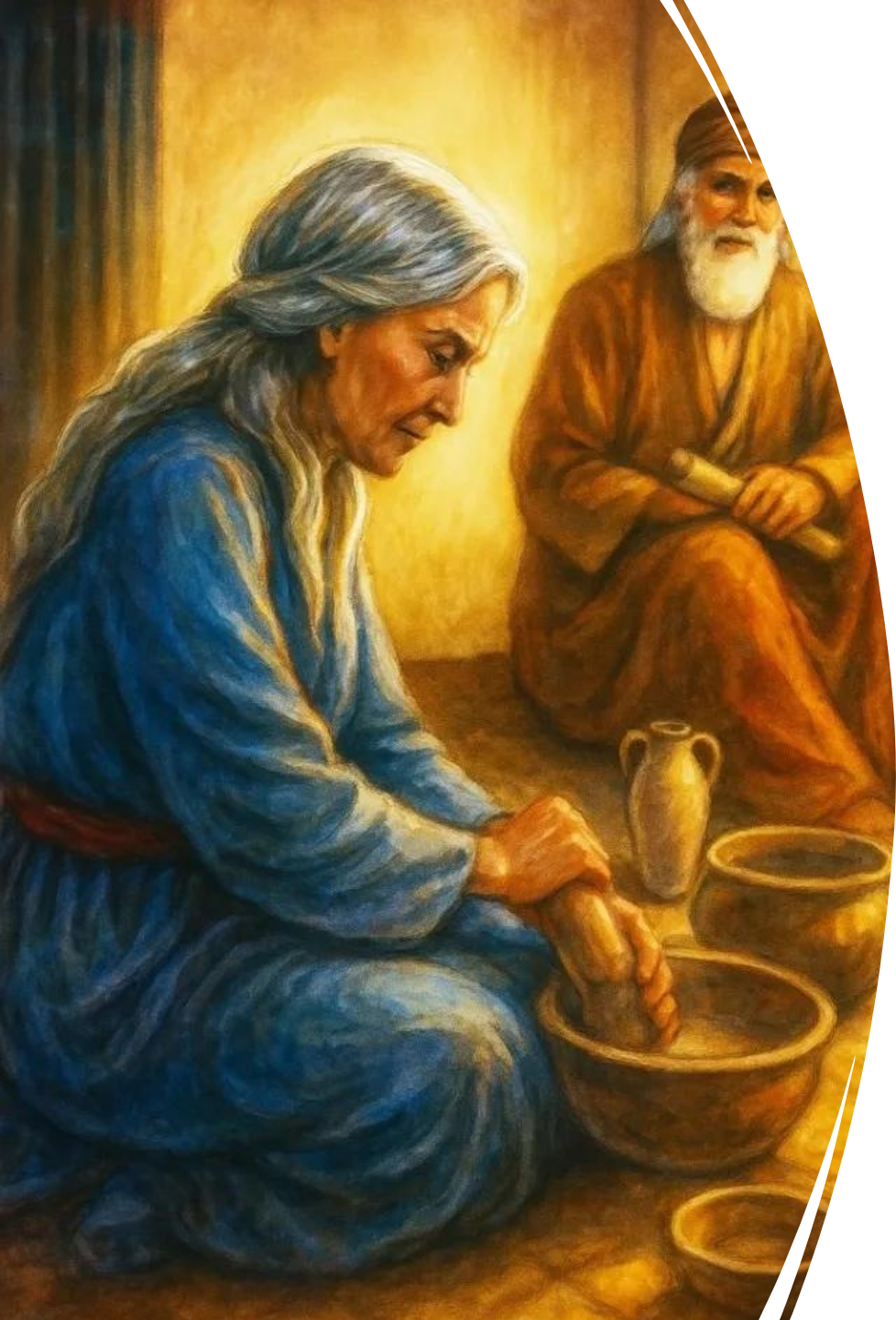


“They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.” – Luke 1:6



Righteous and Blameless Before God

1st Sunday of Kiahk



Breaking the Silence

- “So great was the distress in Israel that there had not been the like since the time that prophets ceased to appear among them.” (1 Maccabees 9:27)
- In silence, God was not absent.
- The Meaning of Their Names
- Zacharias means “*The Lord remembers*”
- Elizabeth means “*God is my oath*”

What does it mean to be righteous?

- **Righteousness is Relative**
- “Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.” (Genesis 6:9)
- **Righteous Does NOT Mean Perfect**
- “There is none righteous, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10)
- “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)
- “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again.” (Proverbs 24:16)



What does it mean to be righteous?

- Righteousness Before and After Christ
- Before Christ:
 - Righteousness was lived through hope and patient waiting
 - “And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6)
- After Christ:
 - Righteousness is lived through faith in His saving work
 - “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)
 - “The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

What Does It Mean to Be “Blameless”?

- Blameless Does Not Mean Sinless
- The sign of true faith is obedience:
- “Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:18)
- *“He who obeys the commandments is righteous, not by nature, but by choice.”* (St. Clement of Alexandria)

Lessons from the Righteous and Blameless

1. Misconception: Walking with God Means Fewer Problems

- “Remember now, who ever perished being innocent?” (Job 4:7)
- But their faith was not shaken.
- “*God allows trials not as punishment, but as crowns prepared for those who endure.*” (St. John Chrysostom)



2. Both Zacharias and Elizabeth Were Righteous

- “They were both righteous before God.” (Luke 1:6)
- “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)



3. Righteous Before God, Not Just Before People

- “They were righteous before God.” (Luke 1:6)
- “The memory of the righteous is blessed.” (Proverbs 10:7)
- “The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.” (Psalm 112:6)



4. Walking in *All* the Commandments


- “Walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.” (Luke 1:6)
- “These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.” (Matthew 23:23)
- Partial obedience is disobedience in disguise.
- EX: Saul spares Agag



5. The Fruit of Righteousness is Life

- “And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.” (Romans 4:19)
- “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)
- *“This life has been given to you for repentance; do not waste it in vain pursuits.”* (St. Isaac the Syrian)

Conclusion



“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)