



## Imagine: A Second Chance from God

Luke 1:5-25, 67-80.

**Listen!** Jimmy Buffet in his song *Piece of Work* sang, “(I’m) best known for my big mistake.”

- **Tension:** What about a man who has 70 years of faithfulness and 20 minutes of immorality? Is he permanently set aside? Is his life and reputation redeemable?
- **Bigger Tension:** What about an apostle who disbelieved for 20 minutes?
- **Biggest Tension:** What about the 20 minutes that each one of us would like to relive? What about our “big mistake?” Are we judged? Shelved? Second class?

### The anatomy of Zacharias’ big mistake:

- Z. was a God pursuing, righteous person. (v 6)
- Z. was given a big chance to believe God. (vv 13-17)
- Z. would not believe—he made a big mistake. (v 18-20) Hebrews 11:6
- Z. suffered the consequences of the unbelief. (v 20)
- Z. returned to God in obedience and faith. (v 63)
- Z. was restored. (v 64)
- Z. was used of God again. (vv 67-79)

**Central Truth:** Even if I am best known for my big mistake...God can redeem it.

### A Big Mistake:

**God’s Appeal to you today:** Regarding the 20 minutes that haunt you—set it down right now. Put it to rest right now. Confess it for the last time right now. Stop beating yourself up for it right now. Accept His forgiveness right now. Be done with it and walk into the future with the God of grace.

# Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ and pursuing God through obedience, reflective living, and community.

**Central Truth:** Even if I am best known for my big mistake...God can redeem it.

Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** Make a list, using some cryptic code, of your big mistakes. Then, if you could relive just one 20 minute period in your life what would it be?
- **Monday:** What have been the consequences of these big mistakes?
- **Tuesday:** Write a brief summary of how you feel about these now, how well you think you have set them down, how much you think about them, and what you believe about them now.
- **Wednesday:** Write a brief summary of what you think God's perspective is on your big mistakes. Write a brief summary of what you feel God's perspective is on your big mistakes.
- **Thursday:** Are you willing to set all your big mistakes down today and confess them for the last time and forget them and walk into the future in the presence of the God of grace?
- **Friday:** Do something concrete and physical to celebrate the final resting of these big mistakes—go out to supper, make a poster or an artifact, burn a list, something.
- **Saturday:** Ask God how He would be willing to use you again.
- **Bonus Question:** What is God particularly asking you to trust Him for right now? Will you?