

Fairfield Baptist Church

21.02.2021

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-45

Introduction	1-3
Bible Reading	4
Mary Travels	5
Mary's Greeting	6
Elizabeth Filled with the Holy Spirit	7
Elizabeth's Exclamation	8
Two Contrasts	9
What do we learn about God?	10-12
What do we learn?	13 – 15

Introduction

1:1-4	Introduction / Setting
1:5-25	The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold
1:26-38	The Birth of Jesus Foretold
1:39-45	Mary Visits Elizabeth

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-45

Mary Travels

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Mary's Greeting

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb,

Elizabeth Filled with the Holy Spirit

and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth's Exclamation

In a loud voice she exclaimed: "**Blessed** are you among women, and **blessed** is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

Mary Travels

v 39-40

“At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.”

Nazareth in Galilee

v26

Town in the hill country of Judea
Zechariah and Elizabeth’s home

v39

Tradition = **Ein Karim** 7 ks from Jerusalem

Distance between Nazareth and Ein Karim = 150ks (about Hamilton to Taupo)

Hight difference Nazareth 1138 ft Jerusalem 2474 ft

Mary’s up hill trek = 1336 ft

The four or five day journey south.

Interesting to note that Bethlehem is about 10 ks from Jerusalem.

The home of Ruth and Boaz, the birth place of King David.

Greeting Mary’s

v 41

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit was upon Mary. –

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will over shadow you. v35

- The baby – John - leaped for joy.

Controlled by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit undoubtedly guided Elizabeth's remarkable expression of Praise.

Elizabeth's Exclamation

"In a loud voice she exclaimed:

"Blessed are you among women, and

blessed is the child you will bear!

But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

Elizabeth in a loud voice

Blessed you – Mary – among women

Blessed The child – Jesus – you will bear

Blessed She – Mary – who has believed

1) Blessed you – Mary – among women

Mary chosen by God to the human vessel to bring Jesus into this world.

This is how God was to start the amazing plan of the salvation of mankind

2) Blessed The child – Jesus – you will bear

Jesus coming to earth

Miraculous Birth

Sinless Life

Sacrificial Death

Victorious Resurrection

Glorious Return

3) Blessed She – Mary – who has believed

Mary was chosen by God, but she had to believe.

But she had to believe the angel

But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

This expression is not in Praise of Mary.

This expression is in praise of the child whom she bore.

It is a profound expression of Elizabeth's confidence that Mary's child would be the long hoped for Messiah – the one David called "Lord". 20:44

Elizabeth's grasp of the situation was extraordinary considering the aura of mystery that overshadowed all these events.

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Elizabeth greeted Mary not with scepticism but with joy.

She understood the response of the child in her own womb and she seemed to understand the importance of the child Mary was carrying.

All of this must be attributed to the illuminating work of the Spirit.

The infant like his mother, was spirit filled.

Luke 1:15 = Speaking of John

He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth."

Luke 1:41 = "Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit"

The baby John's response was supernaturally prompted by the Spirit of God.

There's nothing about **Mary** being God in the New Testament.

Jesus is **God** and human.

Mary is simply human. Christian theology has always maintained that she was a human being and not **God**, but nevertheless, she was a human being in a very important and intimate place in the story of Jesus.

Mary the mother of Jesus was a godly and blessed woman, but she was not without sin.

Jesus was the only human without sin. Jesus “had no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
“In him is no sin” (1 John 3:5).

Nothing of the sort is ever said of Mary or anyone else.

Jesus Christ is fully human, but He is also fully God (John 1:1).

He is the Lamb of God, “without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19), a title and description no other person can claim.

Interesting side issue.

V36 = Elizabeth was in her sixth month

V56 = Mary stayed with her for three months

Question = was Mary with Elizabeth when John the Baptist was born?

Two Interesting Contrasts.

Mary and Elizabeth

Two Jewish women chosen by God.

Bound together by kinship / relationship / family.

Strong suggestion = cousin

Both

Were humble women. - courageous, obedient

Intimate relationship with God

Standing up for what they believed

Walking with integrity

The praise of God on their lips

Blessed by the Lord

Bearing sons, when they did not expect it to happen.

Open to the scoffing of society

Elizabeth the older women who could have any children.

She could not give her husband Zechariah a son in the line of David.

Mary the young women who was pregnant when she should not have been. She did not want to be.

This in the society of the day meant stoning to death.

Yet she said - v38 "I am the Lord's Servant"

"May it be to me as you have said." – to the angel

Mary and Zechariah

Both had the angel Gabriel appear to them.

Mary greatly troubled wondered what kind of greeting this must be.

“You are highly favoured, the Lord is with you.”

Zechariah was startled and gripped with fear.

Both had the angel say to them “don’t be afraid”

Mary “do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God.”

Zechariah “do be afraid Zechariah, your prayer has been heard.”

To Mary the angel said

“You will be with child and give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus.”

To Zechariah the angel said.

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you are to give him the John.”

The angel told each of them what their son would be like and what he would do, what he would accomplish.

But Mary and Zechariah responded very differently.

Zechariah “did not believe the angels words’ – was unable to speak.

Mary did believe and said these words’

“I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said.”

Mary trusted God totally.

Mary had a devout and obedient character.

She was willing to risk disgrace and divorce to comply with God’s command.

What do we learn about God?

God is in control

God is completely sovereign

God is infinite in wisdom

God is perfect in love

“God in His **love** always wills what is best for us. In His **wisdom** He always knows what is best, and in His **sovereignty** He has the power to bring it about.”

God has His ways

Mary never thought God was going to use her like this

Zechariah and Elizabeth never imagined what did happen

God keeps His promises – Heb 13:5-6

⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”^[a]

⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”^[b]

Jesus words

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

What do we learn ?

Trust in God

Just like Mary did.

Believe God's Promises (ill = Believe on window sill)

Just like Mary did.

Encourage each other – Heb 10:25

Let us not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.