

# Elizabeth's Lesson

Week of Dec. 2 - Dec. 8, 2019

## Introduction

God is always taking the foolish, the weak, the elderly to reveal His glory. The Gospel of Luke begins with an audacious story; a couple living in a retirement home are going to have a baby! It's not very dignified. But it is Good news. Before you know it, another woman, this time a girl - Mary, also becomes pregnant. In this week's lesson we listen in on their mutual mirth.

## Lesson Luke 1:26-45

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

## Questions

1. Why is Mary frightened by the angel Gabriel's words?
2. What is the significance of Elizabeth's pregnancy?
3. In verse 39, Luke talks about the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaping for joy. How would you define joy? Is it different than happiness?

4. Why do you think that Mary wanted to see her relative Elizabeth? What do you think she wanted to get out of the visit?
5. Mary confesses to the angel that she is the Lord's servant. Why is it so hard for us to accept being submissive and a servant of the Lord?
6. Have you ever had an experience where God has taught you to be a willing servant?
7. Do you think that Elizabeth acted as a mentor to Mary? Has someone ever mentored you in the Lord? Has God used you to mentor others?

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, there is no greater miracle than birth! As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Help transform us so that we become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, honesty and peace for the sake of Jesus Christ. In God's name we pray, Amen.