

Luke 1:39-45 ESV

Do You Believe the Impossible?

Sunday, December 20 at 8:00 & 10:45

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 2015

Join Us: 12/24 at 6; 12/25 at 10; 12/27 at 10; 12/31 at 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

- ➔ I know a Person who created something *super-amazing* out of absolutely nothing; do you believe it? *You should!* The second Person of the Holy Trinity created the heavens and the earth out of nothing!
- ➔ I heard a true story about a woman who had never been with a man *and yet she became pregnant*; do you believe it? *You should!* Regarding Mary, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of the Most High overshadowed her (Luke 1:35); somehow, *through all of that*, the very Son of God put on human flesh, so Mary was pregnant!

So do we believe the impossible? Yes we do, by *God's grace* through *His gift of faith!* Today we will come to more of what seems impossible, **but nothing is impossible with God, so let us always believe!**

1. **Mary Hurried to Visit Elizabeth:** ³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town [city] in [of] Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

- a. In what days? The text said “in those days,” so *what days* are being referenced? The days when
 - ➔ the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary,
 - ➔ she became

pregnant, and she made plans to travel about 100 miles to visit Elizabeth.

- b. Why did Mary hurry? Gabriel had said to Mary: “And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36 ESV). So Elizabeth was old, was probably past the time of having a child, and had been unable to have a child when she was younger. *But Elizabeth was six months pregnant!* It’s not that Mary doubted, *but she did want to see for herself!* Have you ever seen the Grand Canyon? When you heard about it before you saw it, did you doubt its existence? Probably not, *but did you still desire to see it for yourself?*

2. **Mary and Her Baby are So Blessed:** ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” // Let’s focus on the fact that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit; then, speaking by the Spirit, she shouted out the blessedness of both Mary and the baby she was carrying in her womb.

- a. Regarding Mary: Elizabeth said to her: “Blessed are you among women...” Why is that true? Right after the fall into sin, God promised that a woman would eventually give birth to a child who would conquer the devil. Then, *of all the women the world had ever known*, God chose

Mary to be THE WOMAN through whom the Messiah would come!

- b. Regarding Mary's baby: Elizabeth said to Mary, "blessed is the fruit of your womb!" Why is that true? Because He is the Promised One, *who would be given the name Jesus and who would ultimately win the victory over sin, death, and the devil!*

Mary was chosen above every other woman, **but Jesus is Immanuel, GOD WITH US, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world!**

3. **Believers are So Blessed:** ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And **blessed is she who believed** that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." // So what did the Lord say to Mary through the angel Gabriel? "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:31-33 ESV).
- a. Elizabeth: Since Zechariah did **not** believe Gabriel *in regard to John*, he was **unable** to speak until John was named. So God spoke through Elizabeth, who **was** humbled by the visit from Mary and **spoke** great words of encouragement!

- b. Mary: Elizabeth said she was blessed for believing what Gabriel said; even though logic would say, "Impossible," *she believed all those impossible things, and God brought them to pass!*
- c. You and me: Elizabeth and Mary believed and were blessed, *but so are we*; God has given us the gift of faith to believe what seems impossible! **Through Jesus we are so blessed now and forevermore!**

Conclusion: *As we conclude the season of Advent and draw near to the celebration of our Savior's birth, let us* 📌 *be sorry for our sins, 📌 be amazed that the Son of God came to save us, and 📌 live with joy to the world!*

And all God's people said: **Amen!**

Disciple Training (Matthew 28:18-20)

Important Teachings to Remember:

1. Mary was chosen above all other women to be the person through whom the Son of God, the Savior of all, would come into the world.
2. Jesus is the One who lived for all, died for all, and made the way to heaven for all – *we received the benefits of Jesus' work through baptism!*

Important Actions to Practice:

1. By God's grace Mary kept believing the impossible (Luke 1:31-33); it is also vital for us, *by God's grace*, to do the same!
2. Mary, *from faith and love*, lived according to the Bible; it is also vital for us to do the same by *feeding on the Word and living in continual repentance!*

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230