

Third Wednesday in Advent, December 17, 2014 at 11 AM & 7 PM

God With Us

A Chronology of the Four Gospels Regarding Our Savior's Birth!

Part 5:

Luke 1:39-45 – Mary Visits Elizabeth, and Both are Expecting!

Luke 1:46-56 – Mary, Pregnant with Jesus, Magnifies the Lord!

Join Us: Christmas Eve at 6 PM; Christmas Day at 10 AM



Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is part 5 of “**God With Us**”! In part 4 an angel visited Mary to tell her about the child she would bear; we also traced the genealogy of Jesus – *on Mary’s side* – all the way back to Adam; therefore, *Jesus is the one Savior for all people of all time (Acts 4:12)!*

Notice the number **5** on our timeline; that is our focus today: *Mary visiting Elizabeth!* The length of the visit was *about three months*; today’s text covers ♦Mary’s journey to Elizabeth and ♦the statements they made to each other when she arrived.

1. **Mary Visits Elizabeth, and Both are Expecting:**

- a. ^{NIV} **Luke 1:39** At that time Mary got ready [At what time? Right after she humbly agreed to bear our Savior!] **and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,** ⁴⁰ **where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.** [Mary lived in Nazareth of Galilee, while Elizabeth lived in Judea – near Jerusalem. Mary traveled about 80 miles one way, and she “hurried” – anxious to verify what the angel had told her!] ⁴¹ **When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.** // Even though Mary had been informed about Elizabeth, *we are not aware that Elizabeth had been informed about Mary.* Therefore, God used the *sound of Mary’s voice* to cause ♦the preborn John to leap and ♦Elizabeth to be filled with the Holy Spirit!

Then, *upon being filled*, the Bible records this about Elizabeth:

- b. ⁴² **In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!”** ⁴³ **But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** ⁴⁴ **As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.** ⁴⁵ **Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”** // Yes, truly Mary is blessed among women, but why?
- i. Because God chose Mary above every other woman to be the one through whom He would bring His Son, *the promised Savior*, into the world!
- ii. Because she believed what the Lord told her, *through Gabriel*, that she would bear the “**the Son of the Most High.**” (Luke 1:32 ESV)
- iii. Because she *humbly* and *willingly* accepted God’s will for her life! Think about Mary: Her part included ♦much faith, ♦much joy, and ♦much sorrow – *yet she honored the Lord by doing His will*; may we do the same!
2. **Mary, Pregnant with Jesus, Magnifies the Lord:** Right after Elizabeth spoke of the blessings which had been showered upon Mary, the Bible records Mary’s response:
- a. ^{NIV} **Luke 1:46** **And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord** ⁴⁷ **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,** ⁴⁸ **for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,** ⁴⁹ **for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.** ⁵⁰ **His mercy**

extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.” // Let’s take a closer look:

- i. Mary rejoiced in God *her Savior*. We all need Jesus; *He is the one Savior for all people of all time* (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)! The song, “Mary Did You Know,” includes this phrase: **“Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new, this child that you delivered will soon deliver you?”** (Mary Lowry, Buddy Greene, 1991)
- ii. Mary lived the words of Micah 6:8 by ♦doing justice, ♦loving kindness, and ♦walking humbly with her God; *may we do the same unto God’s glory!*
- iii. Now, *as we look back to Mary’s faith, courage, and faithfulness*, we call her blessed because she willingly ♦bore, ♦nourished, ♦nurtured, and ♦loved her Son—*the Savior of the whole world!* Therefore, as Mary feared, thus trusted, in the Almighty God, *let us gladly do the same!* Mary continued with these words:
 - b. ⁵¹ **“He [the Mighty One] has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”** // Mary gave all the *credit* and all the *glory* to God:
 - i. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm – *He did it and no one else!*

- ii. ...he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts – yes, *he knows our inmost thoughts*, so let us ♦be repentant and ♦humbly trust in the Lord!
- iii. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble – God is almighty, *He can do anything*; great rulers are powerless against Him, *yet He lifts up and blesses the humble!*
- iv. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty – Let us ever trust in the true God, *knowing that He will provide whatever we need!*
- v. He has helped his servant Israel – Yes, so Abraham had a son named Isaac, and Isaac had a son named Jacob – *whose name is also Israel*. So the entire nation came from the body of Abraham. But even more important is this: **“...those who believe [in Jesus as Savior] are children of Abraham.”** (Gal 3:7 NIV) So we, *by grace through faith*, have God’s eternal blessing upon us!

Conclusion: ⁵⁶ **Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.** // It seems that Mary left to return to Nazareth – *just before Elizabeth gave birth to John*. Please join us this Sunday at 8:00 or 10:45 as → *John is born and named*, also as → *Zechariah tells in advance about Jesus and John!*

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**