

OUTLINE LUKE 1:39-45 'ARE YOU LIKE ELIZABETH?' Series 'Enter His Story' #3
IBC Eindhoven, 15 December 2019

1. SCENE

- Last week focus on Zechariah
- Verse 6: both were upright + childless
- Gabriel announced birth of JB >> Zechariah did not believe
- Today focus on Elizabeth
 - Became pregnant: verse 24, remained in seclusion for 5 months
 - Gave God the honour: verse 25, focus on taken away her disgrace

2. VISITATION

- After 5 months - Gabriel visited Mary - focus on Mary next week
- Included was the announcement that her relative Elizabeth was pregnant
- Verse 39: hurried = obedience
- Verses 40-41:
 - Greeting probably something like: I'm pregnant, angel, Holy Spirit, Messiah...
 - JB in womb responding to greeting by Mary
 - In accordance with prophecy in verses 16-17
 - Prophesying the coming of the Lord in Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 4:5
 - I.e. JB already filled with the Holy Spirit took up his calling announcing the coming of the Messiah
 - Next: Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit
- Verses 42-45
 - With a loud voice exclaimed >> response in overwhelming experience
 - Blessed 2x >> God is working his purposes
 - The mother of my lord >> amazing word in realisation of call of JB
 - Elizabeth acknowledging Mary's humble faith

Suggestion for reflection

Read the passage and share the words that touch you

3. INSPIRED BY ELIZABETH

1. UPRIGHT

- Faith = observing God's law of love
 - Sometimes too much emphasis on faith is trusting
- Romans 1:8 and 16:19

2. HUMBLE

- Faith = believing God is able to work in you
 - Humbleness is in awe of God and forgets about self and its limitations.
 - Odd, for with a little change in emphasis it looks like pride: God is doing a miracle in ME! I must be special... this is screwtape's strategy
 - Humbleness is faith in action. Application of faith. If you are bothered by doubts that things are not possible for God to do in your life, then this is close to pride, giving more credit to your reason than to faith in God. Verse 37: nothing is impossible for God
 - Do you really believe that God can change you, work out his salvation in you, make you holy?
- Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; 4:13

3. EXPECTING

- Faith = waiting for God's word to be fulfilled
 - This is not wishful thinking - which comes from your personal desires
 - Expectation in Elizabeth was sparked by God's word: Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 4:5
 - May you hear, meditate and study the word of God frequently
 - May the word of God dwell richly in you
- Psalm 1:2 and Colossians 3:16

Suggestions for reflection

Faith = to trust and to obey. How do these two activities interact? Share from your experience
Humbleness = Read Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; 4:13 and try to discover together the depth of teaching in these verses

Expecting = help each other with practical ideas how to meditate day and night on God's word