

Luke 1.39-56

Mary Prepared for Mission

Luke Interviewed EYEWITNESSES > Word of GOD / words of men

INFO about Jesus in Chapters 1 & 2 Found in NO Other Gospel

One Likely SOURCE of this Information > Mary HERSELF

Luke 1.39-55 - Summary:

Mary visits Cousin Elizabeth > thru Holy Spirit sees Mary's child is Lord

Eliz's Son John begins his prophetic ministry before his own birth

Elizabeth blesses Mary's faith in God's Word

Mary responds w/ song of praise for Power of God to Defend the Helpless

### 1. Comfort of Godly Counsel

ANGEL Gabriel's Message to Mary >> Mary Deeply Troubled

v. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Almost ORDINARY Greeting "Hello" / Shalom! > Do NOT Fear!

RECEPIENT of ENORMOUS Grace / I am UNWORTHY

Mary is PUZZLED > MOST HIGH most EXALTED Name of God in OT

She is Single, Engaged, Virgin in Dirty, Nowhere, NAZARETH

GABRIEL > has RIGHT MESSAGE, Delivered to WRONG ADDRESS!

Shocking message for PARENTS & TEENAGERS –CHANGED Forever

GOSPEL Breaks into Lives > Makes FOREVER Demands

v. 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Maybe Parents supported visit > RELATIVE Eliz will Help You

Parents offered NO HELP --- SHAMED, SECRET, CONFUSED

Took 3 to 5 days Mary to reach Elizabeth: Significant & Dangerous Trip

So Young > Likely Traveled w/ Caravan > Bandits common on Road

Reaction of John and Elizabeth UPON Arrival of Mother & SON

v. 41 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! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Protestants need BALANCED, Biblical View of Mary

NOT Sinless, Not Queen of Heaven, or a Mediatrix > Can’t Hear Prayers

Mary PRAISES Savior SON just like WE DO > GREAT Honor Given

Young WOMAN of Faith & Obedience > Great EXAMPLE to US

v. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Answer Question Why Mary went so Quickly to See her Cousin

Perhaps Mary had doubts & went to confirm Gabriel’s statement

v. 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

MARY was Loved, Nurtured, Discipled, Encouraged by Uncle & Aunt

Spent lives Praying for Son – Have OWN and an Amazing NEPHEW

## 2. Celebration of the Child

v. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.

OT = Leaping a Sign of Joy // Dancing > How Elizabeth Interprets

Ancient peoples believed Infants in Womb: Sing, Dance, Communicate

Dancing babies in Mother’s wombs = Omens of evil to Pagan World

People of Israel looked on this as a positive thing.

Elizabeth filled w/Holy Spirit > Discern God’s work in Mary & Child

v. 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

When the pregnant Mary meets the pregnant Elizabeth

John the Baptist is 6 months old in the womb (Luke 1:36).

John is slightly larger than your hand at this point.

Ask, how old (big) is the unborn Jesus at this moment?

You can deduce the answer from a careful reading of the text.

Mary is not pregnant when the angel comes to her.

When she arrives at Elizabeth's home she is pregnant.

Mary travels "with haste" (1:39) approx 95 mi.(150 km) from

Nazareth (1:26) to "hill country of Judah" (1:39), imprecise designation, but near Jerusalem, where Zachariah served as a priest at the temple (1:8).

This is probably 3-5 days. Let's allow a week. Either way, the unborn Child, John, announces with joy to his mother, "the Lord has come!" as he will to all people 30 years later.

Jesus is "zygote," just few days or a week old—no bigger than the period at the end of this sentence and perhaps not yet implanted in the womb.

Yet Christian doctrine teaches he is fully divine & fully human.

### 3. Confession of Commitment

We WATCH Mary grow in Maturity > Shocked, Processing, Commitment

1.46-49: Mary begins celebrating what God has done for her.

And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Honored and humbled to have the attention of God.

All generations will call her blessed, UNIQUE Privilege

Blessed by Grace – Not her own works or position.

Humility like Elizabeth / Realizes doesn't deserve to be where she is.

"'twas grace that taught my heart to FEAR!" --- WHY ME?

If CAN 'work it out' that SAVED you Probably ARE NOT!

'Of course God SAVED ME!' > What would God do without ME?

If GRACE is NO LONGER Amazing to US --- Doubt really NEED IT!?

1.50-53: Mary broadens the song to discuss God's acts towards others.

And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

This verse sets the context for the rest of the hymn.

The righteous—those who turn to God—who are blessed.

God's mercy / steadfast, loyal love / for those He calls in Christ

v. 51. OT pic > God's strong arm saving his people & scattering enemies

1.54-55: Mary praises God's acts for His people, Israel.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Mary's song full of Hebrew Scripture > squeeze her, Scripture pours out

Song of Mary // song of Hannah in I Sam 2 = Surprised by SONS

Pregnancy, Prophetic, Salvation Event, World-Shaking IMPACT

SONS Servants of God at Vital Moment in History of God's people

Hannah's song > Prophetically speaking of the Messiah

Who are these poor?? Two Extreme Interpretations

1. Spiritualizes everything away > God Not care for desperately Poor?

HE DOES – His OWN Son was One of Them

Give the Temple Sacrifice for his Dedication – Poor Man's Pigeon

2. Take up Arms to Avenge Injustice in this Life > Jesus REFUSES

Could have JUMPED into Wave of Political Messiah

Conquered ROME by Being CRUSHED by Rome

Kingdom NOT of this World > GLIMPSES Now but Forever Coming

God does care for those who are needy in this life.

Sometimes LOSS & Brokenness makes Person MORE Open

Sometimes makes HARDENS > Angry with God and God's People

Sometimes RICH & Comfortable > Proud, Smug, Self-Satisfied, Closed

Sometimes Humbled > Realize ALL have Gift > Temporary STEWARD

Bible NEVER teaches All Poor are Good or Bad / Or Rich – Good & Bad

God sees beyond ROLEX to Reality > Beyond Humility to HEARTS

People are not Worthy before God by Wealth or the LACK of Wealth

God values the heart, not the possessions.

Poverty is Not Sanctifying / Our Suffering cannot SAVE US

ONLY the Suffering of Christ can Atone for our Sins

GOD does care about JUSTICE > Called to Work TOWARD It

All our EFFORTS are IMPERFECT, SINFUL, LIMITED

God's Plan > Make ALL Things New – Not Build on our Foundations

Preach God's Perfect JUSTICE > Invite Justice Seekers to Christ

PERFECT Kingdom is Coming – God SEES & KNOWS All – No Escape

JOIN the Winning SIDE Now – Be MADE Right Now by JESUS

God's people should care for justice, just as their Heavenly Father does.

But should not expect to find it fully in an immediate way on this earth.

Mary's song > Not an exhortation to His people to do, but rather to reflect

Plenty Do > Wisely & Carefully > Mary calls to PRAISE & TRUST

Life with Jesus going to be AGONIZING – Sword will Pierce your Heart

But her Young Mary is ACCEPTING it All by Faith > COMMITMENT

JESUS comes as Blessing, Kindness, Favor, Mercy, Salvation

Christmas HAPPENS to Us! / COMING to Make FOREVER Demands

Mary's LIFE will NEVER EVER be the SAME AGAIN!

Xmas not something DO btwn Thanksgiving & MLK Jr.'s BIRTHDAY

PLAN do it again for a FEW DAYS around December 25, 2023

“I am the Lord's Servant!” DRIVING PASSION of YOUR Teenage Kids?

Is that YOUR Passion as their PARENTS!

Letter to Editor – Exasperated MOTHER – Daughter to ISSION FIELD

“Can anyone help me reach my foolish daughter, throwing her life away!

Daughter WISER than her Years – Wiser than her Mother –

Young Woman had FOUND ETERNAL LIFE

Founder S.A. Wm Booth “God will have all there is of William Booth” /

years later DAUGHTER Reminded of Father's Words

CORRECTED > Not FULL Story > My Father Not just Said > He DID IT!

\*\*\*\*\*