

The Great Physician

Luke 1:26-80

- Luke in his research has included a couple that none of the other gospels talk about and that is Zacharias and Elizabeth, we find out that Zacharias was a part of the Priesthood and that he and his wife were up there in age, and that they had no children. So up to this point in their lives nothing really stood out that would make anyone pay close attention to them personally or professionally, in fact being childless was looked upon as a curse so no one envied their life.
- But one thing stood out to the Lord that was largely ignored by others, and that is both of them were Godly > **1:6**- they were Righteous and walked in the commandments of God and according to the ordinances they were blameless. That doesn't mean sinless it meant if you were to bring a charge against them about God's Word concerning being willfully disobedient no charges would stick, so when your serving the Lord while no one's paying attention you can believe the Lord is.

V26-80

- **V26-27** while God is dealing with Zacharias and Elizabeth Luke discovers He was also dealing with her cousin Mary in the city of Nazareth sending Gabriel there to see her as well. Sometimes the most remarkable things are found in the unremarkable, what do you mean? This is the first mention of Nazareth in scripture as it was not mentioned in the Old Testament or any of the historical writings and yet this is the family where God chooses to place His Beloved Son Jesus.
- Some notes about Nazareth, it was known as a dirty, immoral place, it was **15** miles from the sea, and **6** miles from the nearest major road so getting around was hard and bringing in fresh water was almost impossible, as it only had one well in the center of the village. Yet Jesus would be forever linked with this unremarkable place being repeatedly called "**Jesus of Nazareth**" even His followers were called "**Nazarenes**" as Luke details in **Acts 24:5**. When Philip found Nathaniel and said "**look we've found the Messiah whom Moses and the Prophets spoke**" > "**Jesus of Nazareth**" Nathaniel's response was "**can any good thing come out of Nazareth**" **Jn 1:46**.
- **V28-30** now unlike Zacharias who was "**troubled**" at seeing the Angel, Mary is only troubled at what he said, first she's wondering "**how and why am I highly favored and blessed**" the reason is in what the Angel said in the middle of his statement because "**The Lord is with you**". Anytime the Lord is with any of us we are highly favored and blessed no matter what. She doesn't understand that yet as she's looking at her circumstance being a teenager no older than **16** and living a pretty unremarkable life in an unremarkable place, so to her this saying is very strange.
- **V31-33** it gets even weirder for her as the Angel tell her she will have a son and He will be great and the Son of God, this is what all the women dreamed of in Israel to be the mother of the Messiah, but Mary instead of rejoicing as the Angel told her is confused and has some questions. **V34-35** asking "**How can this be I am a virgin**" were told she was betrothed to a man named Joseph, there was three stages to a Jewish wedding in that day > **1st Engagement** (agreement made by the fathers) **2nd Betrothal** (ceremony where mutual promises are made) **3rd Marriage** (one year later when the bridegroom comes for his bride at an unexpected time).

- The Angel lets her know what is impossible for man is possible with God as the Holy Spirit will come upon her and she will then be with child. **V36-40** as if that wasn't enough she is then told that her elderly cousin who she knows all about her infertility is now with child. Amazingly after hearing that Mary goes from questioning to hopeful as she says "**let it be to me according to your word**" why does she say that? Notice it wasn't the blessing of hearing what she would receive that got her all excited, it was hearing that her cousin who has endured all this shame for not being able to have children is now pregnant, that's when she say please let it be so.
- Does hearing what God is doing in the lives of others get you just as excited as what He is doing in your life? **V39** she hurries and leaves for a town called "**Ain Karim**" in the hill country of Judea about a **100** miles from Nazareth, now she is not motivated by curiosity, nor to see if what the Angel said is true, but its out of love for her elderly cousin does she make this long journey to take care of her as we'll see she'll stay with her for several months.
- **V41-56** this is what Joy looks like as we see "**the joy of Elizabeth**" **V41-45**, "**Joy of the unborn son**" **V41**, "**the joy of Mary**" **V46-55**. Elisabeth gives a blessing to Mary and Mary in turn sings a song of praise to the Lord, its sad that people don't respond to the birth of Jesus like Mary did. We have whole belief systems worshipping Mary as if she did something and when her own cousin gave her praise she gives it right back to the Lord as she understood it was all God's doing
- If you wondered why Zacharias questions brought rebuke and Mary's questions elicited praise here's the reason **V45** "**She Believed**". Mary's questions stemmed from not understanding the process, Zacharias even after the process was explained still doubted. So she sings what is commonly known now as "The Magnificat" notice she mentions first her "**Soul**" speaking of her mind and emotions, "**spirit**" speaks of her essence, that which will live forever.
- What she is saying is her **soul** (mind-emotions) magnify the Lord, because her **spirit** (the deepest part of her) has rejoiced in God her Savior, this shows that worship isn't about feelings but about what God has done for us eternally and that is why we can't hold it in outwardly. When you read this you can clearly see that Mary wasn't just a "**woman of faith**" but also a "**woman of the word**" as we see her speak of God as Savior, God's love for the humble, God's mercy for the repentant, and God's faithfulness to keep His promises, as she quotes the Law, Prophets, Psalms
- **V57-63** after Mary has stayed for three months making sure her cousin is good she leaves and Elisabeth gives birth and outside of tradition she gives the baby the name "John" it was tradition that the husband name the baby and that the name is after someone in the family, so they ask Zacharias, and he has learned his lesson as he agrees the child's name shall be "John" and the people marveled (amazed). **V64-66** immediately Zacharias is able to talk and instead of question God he's now praising God and it caused an uproar where people now are going to pay close attention to this family, before they were seen as cured, now their seen as blessed.
- **V67-75** freed from the chains of unbelief Zacharias is filled with the Spirit and practices > **Ps 35:28**- where he praises God for what He's done **V69**, Praises God for fulfilling Prophecy **V70-71**, praises God for His faithfulness to His Promises **V72-75**.

- **V76-80** we see the mission of John the Baptist, as he was to prepare the people for the first coming of Jesus, and this will set the stage for a people to be prepared for the second coming of Jesus through the ministry of the Church. Notice what is said here is the mission given to us > **1st** to give out information **V77- Rom 10:14-15**, **2nd** to give out Light **V79- Ps 119:105**, **3rd** to give direction **V79- Philip 2:14-15**.