



2: Trusting God's Promises (Luke 1:39-55)

God has made promises to us, but some promises are yet to be fulfilled. Will God be faithful? Today's teaching will remind us that God's faithfulness to fulfill past promises is good reason to continue trusting God's promises for the future.

beourguest

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teachingnotes

? *Are you the Lord's servant?*

Journey to Judea

Luke 1:38-40 (NIV) "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Mary takes this long trip from Nazareth to **Judea** (3-4 days) because she wants to see if God's promises are TRUE! The **town** that **Zechariah & Elizabeth** live in is not named but it is *likely near Jerusalem* as Zechariah since most priests made their home near Jerusalem because of their priestly duties.

Spirit-Filled Greetings

Luke 1:41-44 (NIV) When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and **Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.** In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

How does Elizabeth KNOW who Mary is carrying in her womb? The **Holy Spirit** who **filled** her had revealed this to her. Out of all the women in the world, this young girl from Nazareth is the most **blessed** among all women of all time. The older cousin calls her younger cousin **the mother of my Lord** - Elizabeth doesn't know this because of Mary's belly - *Mary isn't showing yet.* Mary hasn't told her anything yet. But **the Holy Spirit** who has **filled** Elizabeth has told her.

Warren Wiersbe

"Mary's womb became a holy of holies for the Son of God!"

*This is the great message of the Gospel - God has put on skin - the Creator clothed Himself in humanity. **You don't have to go find Him hiding. He comes to find YOU!***

Elizabeth and the unborn prophet (John the Baptist) in her womb,- by the power of **the Holy Spirit** - both sense the joy of this moment. The promise that Israel had been waiting for was now growing in Mary's womb, in **the mother of my Lord.** Up until this point, every use of Lord by Luke is in reference to Yahweh God alone. (Luke 1:6,9,11,15,16,17, 25, 28, 32,38).

But now *the One who will be born to Mary* is referred to as **Lord.** In fact, more than any other Gospel, Luke describes Jesus as **Lord** numerous times after that (Greek = *kurios* = **Lord** Lk 1:76; 2:11;7:13,19; 10:1,39,41; 11:39; 12:42; 13:15; 17:5f; 18:6; 19:8, 31,34; 20:42,44; 22:61; 24:3,34).

Elizabeth is old, yet Elizabeth is humble. She recognizes the hope for her people is found in this unborn child - the child who is **her Lord** - the One who is to be named 'Yeshua' - Jesus - 'Yahweh is salvation'.

Believing God's Promises

Luke 1:45 (NIV) Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!"

? Do WE believe that **the Lord will fulfill His promises** to US?

Mary had believed what the angel said. Now Elizabeth's words & belly further confirm that what God has said will come to be. Mary's joy is heard with these powerful words of praise.

Powerful Words of Praise

Luke 1:46-55 (NIV) And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for **He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.** From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— **holy is His Name. His mercy extends to those who fear him,** from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. **He has helped his servant Israel,** remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, **just as He promised** our ancestors."

Mary is a **humble servant** grateful for God's grace to her.

- **Mary is righteous**, but *NOT self-righteous*.
- Mary is quick to give God the credit for what He has done. This is why God has chosen her.
- Mary understands the story is bigger than her. She is not **the star of the show** - HE is.

Long before Gabriel's visitation or Elizabeth's encouraging words, Mary heard the stories of God's faithfulness in the past and **her prayer to Him that is overflowing with Old Testament teachings.** Mary had no personal copy of the Scriptures like WE have, but God's words & works saturated her soul!!!

- Mary's words echoes those of Hannah's prayers (1 Sam. 1:11; 2:1-10) as well as prayers throughout the Law, Prophets, & Psalms. This young girl has a deep appreciation for God's Word.

🕒 Oh that WE would read & treasure God's Words as Mary did.

- Mary knew of the Exodus & how God rescued the Jews from 430 years of slavery. *Do YOU know of those things?*
- Mary knew how God overthrew powerful kingdoms, raised up & destroyed mighty kings, & how God honored His humble servants. *Have you listened or read of those truths?*

❓ Is that WHY some of us don't trust God with the future - because we don't know or believe what God has done in the past?

Mary's BEHAVIOR demonstrated her BELIEF that what God SAID would happen, WOULD happen.

BIG TRUTH: Behave like you Believe God's Promises are True.

*Mary could trust God with the future, because she knew of His faithfulness in the past. **She behaved like she believed God's promises were true.*** She was grateful for what was about to happen...even though it hadn't happened yet. As Elizabeth had said, "she...believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her." (Lk 1:45)

✓ So too, God has made us some promises that we have yet to see fulfilled, promises we can either question...or trust.

❓ Will you **Behave like you Believe God's promises are true?** Have you turned from sin & trusted Jesus with your life?

Followers of Jesus can trust that:

- **Your Sin is forgiven.** *Sometimes we still FEEL guilty for past sin that we have repented of.* Will you trust your feelings that change like the wind or trust God's promises which are true?
 - **Jesus will never leave you...**even when you can't feel Him. He has promised you His presence. Will you trust your feelings or God's promises?
 - **Jesus will return.** His people have been waiting for 2000 years...and could be waiting much longer. Jesus promised to return and restore all things so we **BELIEVE** the words the Lord has promised and live like He will return.
- ✓ Check your life this week: Words, Actions, Thoughts, Attitudes, Relationships... If WE believed WE were REALLY forgiven, we REALLY believed He was with us, we REALLY believed Jesus will return! *What would THAT look like?*

BIG TRUTH: Behave like you Believe God's Promises are True.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405), **Boss & Amelia Mulkey** (850-464-6717), or **Tom & Martha Waddail** (850-973-0011).

discussion questions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. *Which one of these promises from God do you most struggle to believe and why?:*
 - Your sin is forgiven.
 - Jesus will never leave you.
 - Jesus will return.
2. **Read Luke 1:41-44** about the significance of Elizabeth calling Mary “the mother of my Lord.” What reason is given regarding how Elizabeth knew this?
3. Take a moment to **read Luke 1:6, 9,11,15,16,17,25,28,32,38** and answer this question: Up until verse 43, who is **Lord** speaking of in Luke’s Gospel? Based on this usage so far, how should **Lord** in verse 43 be understood and why is that important?
4. **Read Luke 1:45-49.** What can we learn from young Mary’s faith, gratefulness, & humility - to *apply in OUR lives?*
5. **Read Luke 1:50-55.** How does Mary’s knowledge of God’s actions from the Scriptures help her to trust His future promises? How might *YOUR knowledge* of God’s Scriptures help *YOU* to trust His future promises?
6. Today’s BIG TRUTH is **Behave like you Believe God’s promises are true.** What carries more weight - what we SAY we believe or what we SHOW we believe (behavior)? Explain your answer.
7. **Ask how you can pray for one another. Then do it!**