

Christmas Stories  
The Story of Elizabeth – Part 1  
November 29, 2015  
Pastor Gordon

Disgrace can cause us to:

Retreat  
Regress  
Repeat

*“This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men.” (Luke 1:25, NASB95)*

**How to Move From Disgrace to His Grace**

**HONOR** God’s ways

*“[Zacharias and Elizabeth] lived honorably before God, careful in keeping to the ways of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God.” (Luke 1:6, The Message)*

**RELY ON GOD** against all odds

*“They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.” (Luke 1:7, NLT)*

*“But the angel said to him, “Zechariah, don’t be afraid. God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son, and you will name him John.” (Luke 1:13, NCV)*

*“Trust the LORD with all your heart, and don’t depend on your own understanding. Remember the LORD in all you do, and he will give you success.” (Proverbs 3:5–6, NCV)*

**TURN ADVERSITY** into an advantage

*“But that’s not all! We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.” (Romans 5:3–5, CEV)*

*“I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you.” So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ’s power can live in me.”*

*(2 Corinthians 12:8–9, NCV)*

*"God wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, TLB)*

**EXPECT** the Unexpected

*"So, this is how God acts to remedy my unfortunate condition!" [Elizabeth] said.  
(Luke 1:25, The Message)*

*"His birth will make you very happy, and many people will be glad. Your son will be a great servant of the Lord. He must never drink wine or beer, and the power of the Holy Spirit will be with him from the time he is born. John will lead many people in Israel to turn back to the Lord their God. He will go ahead of the Lord with the same power and spirit that Elijah had. And because of John, parents will be more thoughtful of their children. And people who now disobey God will begin to think as they ought to. That is how John will get people ready for the Lord."  
(Luke 1:14–17, CEV)*

*"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us." (Ephesians 3:20, The Message)*

*"Nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37, NIRV)*

Last thought: Let God turn my **SHAME** into His **FAME**