

March 23rd – The First Person to Praise Jesus

*“Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”
(Luke 1:39-41)*

Answer this question – Who was the first person to praise Jesus? What would be your guess? Maybe the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night? Maybe the wise men who traveled from the East to come and bring their gifts to the Christ child? Maybe even the angels who paused to give glory to God immediately after the birth of Jesus? All those might be pretty good guesses, but they would all be wrong. Someone else beat them to the punch.

You might be surprised to learn that the first person to praise Jesus was prenatal, in utero – in the womb! About six months into her cousin’s pregnancy, the recently impregnated Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. It just so happened that Elizabeth was about to give birth to the one that would be named John. We’ve come to know Elizabeth’s son as John the Baptist. God had appointed John to be the forerunner of Christ – to make the people of Israel ready for the coming of their Savior.

On this occasion, God prompted another miracle – he caused the baby in Elizabeth’s womb to leap for joy! By the power of God, this pre-born child was the very first to praise our Savior Jesus. I think that should teach us at least two things. First, unborn children are human beings that are precious to God. All Christians stand united against abortion. Further, if infants praise our Lord Jesus, then we must do the same. Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, is worthy of ALL our praise – from the youngest to the oldest.