



**When God Came to Visit Elizabeth (Joy)**  
**Luke 1:39-45**

***How can I make space for Joy this season?***

**Verse 39:**

**Text Message:**

- There is more here than meets the eye:
  - 1) Young, unmarried women didn't travel alone...
  - 2) The distance Mary traveled from Nazareth to Ein Karem was 90 miles at a rate of about 10 miles per day.
  - 3) Even if Mary did travel with an unmentioned caravan, this still would've provided plenty of space to think.
- We know that Mary was a "ponderer:"
  - 1) At the announcement of her conception:  
 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and **tried to discern** what sort of greeting this might be. Luke 1:29  
Note: The Greek text uses the word we get our English "dialogue" from and indicates Mary kept trying to discern.
  - 2) At the birth of her Son:  
 But Mary treasured up all these things, **pondering** them in her heart. Luke 2:19  
Note: The Greek verb *συνβαλλω* (*sumballo*) literally refers to "throwing things together" in the mind.
- The point is there was space for Mary to be "set up" for joy.
- Joy comes from "simmering," not "microwaving!"

***Who will I experience joy with this season?***

**Verses 40-41:**

**Text Message:**

- Mary received the greatest news of what God was doing through her, but who could she tell? Who would believe her?
- No matter how true her story, her pregnancy would (and did!) bring shame from her village and society (See John 8:41).
- If there be just one person who would understand, it would be Cousin Elizabeth.
- Isn't it interesting that no conversation was needed? A simple greeting morphed into a Holy Spirit inspired time of joy!
- It's well-known that stress increases this time of year due to certain people and the accompanying drama...
- Mary didn't stay in the village (drama) but to where there would be joy.
- While it may be hard for us to opt out of these settings, we can also choose to be with those who bring us joy in the Lord!
- Elizabeth blesses Mary three times (Verses 42-44).
- Who will I be blessed by and who will I bless with my presence?

***Where will I experience the presence of joy (Jesus!) this season?***

**Verses 43-45:**

**Text Message:**

- Elizabeth experienced the presence of joy (Jesus!) in her home through a single greeting!
- What was meant to be maternal conversation became an experience of Jesus:
  - 1) ... the baby leapt in her womb. Verse 41
  - 2) Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Verse 41
  - 3) Mary is not "cousin" but "mother of my Lord!" (Verse 43).
  - 4) "... the baby in my womb leaped for joy." Verse 44
- While we cannot control or manipulate where we will experience Jesus this season, we can open our hearts to His always-with-us Presence and ask to be filled with joy!
- This is what Advent Joy is about! It's the Presence of Jesus!



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