

Advance to the Manger — Day 5

Advance Together

Luke 1:39-45 TPT

“Afterward, Mary arose and hurried off to the hill country of Judea, to the village where Zechariah and Elizabeth lived. Arriving at their home, Mary entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the moment her aunt heard Mary’s voice, the baby within Elizabeth’s womb jumped and kicked. And suddenly, Elizabeth was filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit! With a loud voice she prophesied with power: “Mary! You are a woman given the highest favor and privilege above all others, for your child is destined to bring God great delight. How did I deserve such a remarkable honor to have the mother of my Lord come and visit me? The moment you came in the door and greeted me, my baby danced inside me with joy! Great favor rests upon you, for you have believed every word spoken to you from the Lord.””

Introduction:

Advance to the Manger by Journeying Together

- Ponder the importance of community in your Christmas journey.
- Read Luke 1:39-45, focusing on Mary and Elizabeth's shared experience.
- Prayer: Thank God for the supportive community on your journey and pray for unity.

Luke 1:39-45 shares a beautiful account of Mary's journey to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was also miraculously expecting a child.

Heart Reflection (Matthew 18:20)

1. Strength in Unity:

Mary's journey to Elizabeth's house was not undertaken alone. She traveled with purpose and anticipation, seeking solace and guidance from someone who understood her unique situation. Likewise, we are not meant to navigate life's journey in isolation. God designed us for community and companionship. When we journey together, we find strength, encouragement, and support in one another. As we advance towards the manger, let us cherish the gift of companionship, seeking out fellow believers who can walk alongside us and share in our joys and struggles.

2. Encountering God's Presence:

When Mary and Elizabeth met, the presence of God was tangibly felt in their midst. Elizabeth's unborn child leaped in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Their encounter affirmed God's hand at work, deepening their faith and providing confirmation of the miraculous events surrounding both of their pregnancies. When we journey together, we create space for God's presence to manifest in our lives. As we advance towards the manger, let us be attentive to the divine encounters and spiritual growth that can unfold through the connections we forge with others.

3. Mutual Blessing:

Mary's visit brought great joy to Elizabeth, who exclaimed, “Mary! You are a woman given the highest favor and privilege above all others. Their encounter was mutually enriching, as they shared in the wonder and blessings of God's faithfulness. When we journey together, we have the opportunity to bless and be blessed by one another. We can offer words of encouragement,

acts of kindness, and prayers of support. As we advance towards the manger, let us be mindful of the ways we can bless and uplift those we journey with, knowing that in doing so, we also receive blessings in return.

4. Faith Affirmed:

Elizabeth's words to Mary affirmed her faith and reinforced God's plan. She declared, "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." Journeying together strengthens our faith and affirms the promises of God. When we witness His faithfulness in the lives of others, our belief is bolstered, and our hope in His promises is renewed. As we advance towards the manger, let us encourage and spur one another on in faith, reminding each other of God's goodness and His faithfulness to fulfill His Word.

Call To Action

- **Strength in Numbers**
 - You're not alone.
 - Connect with other who are the same journey.
 - Refuse to do life in isolation.

- **Encounter**
 - Be aware of the supernatural presence that comes.
 - Create space for God to move in and on you.
 - Learn from one another as you advance.

- **Bless**
 - Be a blessing to those you connect with.
 - Affirm what God is doing in their lives.
 - Have courage to speak a blessing and receive a blessing.

- **Affirm**
 - Allow the connection to be an affirmation of what God is doing.
 - Build the faith of the those around you through affirmation.
 - Encourage and spur those to not quit but stay strong.

Take A Way

This passage highlights the power of journeying together and the blessings that unfold when God's purpose intertwines our paths. As we approach the manger, let us reflect on the significance of journeying together and how it leads us closer to the birth of our Savior.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,

Thank you for the gift of journeying together. Help us to recognize the importance of community and companionship in our lives. May we find strength, encouragement, and support as we walk alongside one another. Guide us to be a blessing to those we journey with and open our hearts to receive blessings from them as well. As we advance towards the manger, may our faith be affirmed and our hope in Your promises be renewed. In Jesus' name. Amen.