

SONGS OF THE SAVIOR  
Life Disrupted – Mary and Elizabeth  
Week 2 Advent December 10, 2023  
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Have you ever run headlong into an unseen, powerful disruption in your life?

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:26-28*

### **GOD'S TIMING**

The timing may seem less than ideal. But is it? Mary is young and a maiden who has never known a man. And she is engaged to be married. This means that she is in the betrothal period usually a 12 month period to prove her purity. This is the moment God chooses to conceive the Messiah in her womb. This is the miracle.

Zechariah and Elizabeth:

*When Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest by the name of Zechariah from the priestly group of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was from the family of Aaron. Both of them were good people and pleased the Lord God by obeying all that he had commanded. But they did not have children. Elizabeth could not have any, and both Zechariah and Elizabeth were already old.*

Luke 1:5-7 NIV

The angel appears to Zechariah

*All at once, an angel from the Lord appeared to Zechariah at the right side of the altar. Zechariah was confused and afraid when he saw the angel. But the angel told him: Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayers. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you must name him John.*

Luke 1:11-13 NIV

Zechariah prayed for this very thing and yet he is having a hard time with it all.

*And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." Luke 1:20 NIV*

The angel's encounter with Elizabeth and Zechariah reminds us that God's timing is always perfect, even when it seems untimely.

God did know what He was doing.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 NIV*

### **UNEXPECTED ENCOURAGEMENT**

*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. 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. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Luke 1:39-45 NIV*

These may have been the first positive words she'd heard in days or even weeks.

In a world (not unlike ours) often obsessed with judging others, their relationship shows us the strength that comes from supporting and uplifting one another.

### **UNMATCHED MIRACLE**

We retell the story of the coming of Jesus and that is advent. It includes the story of Jesus' cousin John the Baptist.

The unmatched miracle is this:

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*