

“Joyful Endurance”
Luke 1: 39-56

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah,
⁴⁰and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.
⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
⁴²And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
⁴³"And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?
⁴⁴"For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.
⁴⁵"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

The Magnificat

⁴⁶And Mary said:
"My soul exalts the Lord,
⁴⁷And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
⁴⁸"For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant;
For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.
⁴⁹"For the Mighty One has done great things for me;
And holy is His name.
⁵⁰AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION
TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.
⁵¹"He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.
⁵²"He has brought down rulers from their thrones,
And has exalted those who were humble.
⁵³HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;
And sent away the rich empty-handed.
⁵⁴"He has given help to Israel His servant,
In remembrance of His mercy,
⁵⁵As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and his descendants forever."

⁵⁶And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

Luke 1: 39-56 (NASB)

Recommended Reading & Resources

(valuable resources for future Bible Studies)

"*The New Testament & The People of God*"
by N.T. Wright

"*An Introduction to the New Testament*"
by D.A. Carson and Douglas Moo

"*The Writings of the New Testament*"
by Luke Timothy Johnson

Audio Series of New Testament Foundations
by Dr. Rikki Watts

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Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. Who is Luke's audience in the entire book? Is it only his gentile patron or are there others? Knowing the audience, how does this affect your understanding of each passage in Luke? (Think about who, in the 1st Century, were the oppressed and marginalized in the greco roman society)
2. In your small group, think about how the passage that was preached would have been interpreted if a woman read it in the 1st Century. How would she have associated with Elizabeth and Mary and how would she have felt and impacted by the news? If there are women in your group, discuss the implications this passage may have on them.
3. As a 1st Century slave, how would you have interpreted this passage? Discuss amongst yourselves by first defining what it is like to be a slave (You may want to look into a commentary on Philemon)
4. The sermon discussed the historical background leading up to Mary and Elizabeth's encounter. Using the historical background, how would you characterize a typical Jew? Are there similarities between them and us today?
5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in Luke's gospel? Specifically to this passage, what is His role? (Hint: there are at least 2)