

December 18, 2022 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Luke 1:1-45, 57-66 - “The Forerunner Meets the Christ”

A. If you want to share a gospel tract, perhaps you may be concerned that such a piece of literature could be too long for the typical man or woman on the street to read.

1. According to Luke’s purpose statement here in **vv1-4**, his entire gospel account was a Christian witness or means of discipleship for a man named Theophilus. → **vv1-4**
2. Luke then began giving a record of historical events concerning the birth of Christ. Believing in the miraculous virgin birth of our Lord Jesus is paramount!
 - a. Many early & modern Mormons have denied this doctrine.
 - b. Dr. Robin Meyers, In his book, *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus*, wrote, "A beautiful, but obviously contrived, tale is the virgin birth, which may have been used to cover a scandal."¹

B. WCF 6, sec 3 says, “the guilt of [our 1st parents’] sin was imputed; & the same death in sin, & corrupted nature, conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation.”

God calls you to rejoice in two miraculous pregnancies.	I. THE CHILD FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT II. THE CHILD CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT III. THE GLORIOUS MEETING OF THE UNBORN
---	---

I. THE CHILD FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT Our text says that the priest Zacharias & his wife Elizabeth “**had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, & they were both advanced in years**” (**v7**).

A. When this great trial of barrenness comes to a married couple, some may ask God why. Is it because of some sin on the part of either the husband or the wife or both of them?

1. Job’s counselors would have likely said that was the reason.
2. This wasn’t the case with either Zacharias or Elizabeth; God considered them righteous His sight (**v6**).

B. Zacharias was faithful to the Lord in his service just as we find him going about his priestly duties before God. → **vv9-12**

1. Fear is often the response when a person is allowed to see one of God’s angels. The guards set to watch Christ’s tomb became terrified when they saw an angel during the morning of our Lord’s resurrection (**Mat. 28:4**).
2. The angel noticed Zacharias was afraid & said something to relieve his fear & to let him know the purpose of his coming to him. → **vv13-17**.

C. Because women over 65 cannot have babies, Zacharias did not believe the angel’s words. → **v19**

1. Zacharias was a man of faith, yet he found this particular revelation hard to believe.
2. What followed could be viewed as discipline for his unbelief, yet the following events led to a greater praising of God in the end. → **vv19-22**, ... **vv57-66**.
 - a. His speech being taken & then restored in this fashion led to great amazement & rejoicing in the hand of God at work in this child & in his parents.
 - b. Putting it another way, they asked, “How will God use this child?” The rest of what the angel foretold of him also surely came to pass in John’s ministry as forerunner.

¹ Meyers, Robin R. (2009). *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus*. HarperOne. p. 40.

II. THE CHILD CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT → v26-30

A. Mary was favored by God because of her great faith.

B. What is foretold next about the son she would conceive is of incomparable greatness. → v31-33

1. Mary did not realize it, but her Son would be the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy of the **"stone cut without hands"** who would come to smash the world's great empires & become a **"great mountain"** that **"filled the whole earth"** (Dan 2:34-35).

2. Through His Son, **"the God of heaven [has] set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed"** (Dan 2:44). As Gabriel said in v33, **"His Kingdom will have no end."**

C. As glorious as all this was, what the angel said next was even more extraordinary. → vv34-35.

1. As a virgin her conception would come about through the Holy Spirit as the power of the Most High overshadowed her. To deny this is heresy.

2. The baby she would conceive was to be called the Son of God.

a. When He was 12 years old in the temple, Jesus told his parents, **"I must be about My Father's business"** (NKJV).

b. During the time of His active ministry, Jesus often spoke of God as His Father.

D. Gabriel closed his message by telling Mary of the miracle God accomplished in Elizabeth. → vv36-37

E. We should praise God for Mary's response of great faith & submission. → v38.

III. THE GLORIOUS MEETING OF THE UNBORN

A. Mary received the angel's report about Elizabeth with great faith & joy. That is why we read in vv39-40: **"Mary arose & went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰& entered the house of Zacharias & greeted Elizabeth."**

B. As we were told earlier, Elizabeth's unborn son was to be filled with the Holy Spirit in her womb. John's having the indwelling Holy Spirit 1st became evident in v41: **"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; & Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."**

1. Here we have a babe filled with the Holy Spirit expressing great joy as his mom was likewise filled to speak as inspired by the Holy Spirit. → v42-45

2. The Spirit revealed to Elizabeth that Mary was the **"mother of [her] Lord."** The Holy Spirit made her aware the child was divine.

C. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you should respond like the unborn John— with great joy.

1. How do you know if you are filled with the Holy Spirit or not?

a. Paul said in 1 Cor 12: **"no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit"** (v3).

b. The Holy Spirit came to **"convict the world concerning sin & righteousness & judgment"** (Jn 16:8).

2. Joy in the Christ who came into the world is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Review, further application, & conclusion: