

Luke 1:5-56

We saw last Sunday, as we began our series on Luke, that the story of Jesus we find in Luke is exact truth. We can believe what Luke records.

1. He investigated the accounts of many
2. He investigated the testimonies of eyewitnesses
3. He pulled the evidence together to give us the exact truth concerning Jesus Christ.

After His introduction, Luke begins the story of Jesus in verse 5.

1. For 400 years God had sent no prophets, no Word from heaven...nothing...silence.
2. The silence is broken beginning in Luke 1:5 and when that silence was broken God moved fast and frequently.

The silence was broken, as we will see with 2 angelic visits, 2 miraculous events, 2 promised births, and 1 song of praise.

## **I. Two Angelic Visits**

1. The story of Zechariah (summarize)
2. The story of Mary (summarize)

## **II. Two Miraculous Events**

### **1. An Old Barren Womb**

- Elizabeth was Barren v5-7

*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.*

- Elizabeth was Blameless v6

*6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.*

Psalm 127:3-5 *Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior; So are the children of one's youth. 5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.*

1. Why am I childless if I am righteous?
2. Am I truly righteous since I am childless?

There “*could not* have children” had become they “*would not* have children.”

1. There was lifelong shame and disappointment YET righteousness and blamelessness.
  - a. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that if you are righteous you will have it easy.
  - b. Or, if you are really righteous you are guaranteed success.
  - c. Unfulfilled dreams don't necessarily mean that God isn't pleased with you!
  - d. Elizabeth and Zechariah experienced life long shame and disappointment yet they were righteous and blameless in God's sight.
2. They served God even though they did not get what they wanted when they wanted it.
  - a. For many of us, our commitment to Christ is dependent upon what He does for us
  - b. If we feel like He isn't “working” we hit the pause button spiritually.
  - c. Elizabeth and Zechariah served God faithfully even in the midst of unfulfilled hopes and unanswered prayers.

• Elizabeth was Eventually Blessed v24-25

*After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, 25 “This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men.”*

1. An old barren womb was revived!
2. That is a miraculous event...but it was not only an old barren womb...

## 2. A Young Virgin Womb

a. What does it really matter?  
b. Romans 5:12-17 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

1. Imputed sin...we are/were in Adam
2. Inherited sin...from Adam
3. Intentional sin...because we are sons of Adam
  - a. We are not sinners because we sin
  - b. We sin because we are sinners.
- c. In the virgin birth, Jesus bypassed Adam's imputed sin
- d. He did not inherit Adam's sinful nature
- e. We are either in the first Adam or in the last Adam.
  1. We ALL have been born of dust in the first Adam.
  2. And we must be born again by the Spirit in order to live in the last Adam.
    - a. Are you in Adam...or in Christ?
    - b. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

d. Take out a pen if you aren't using it and your notes, or some paper and answer the following question: **Are you in Adam or in Christ?** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Take a moment and answer that question in your notes...or somewhere on paper.
2. Go ahead...ask God to show you. If you can't write yes....write no.

Why? Because, this makes all the difference in the world!

1. Romans 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**.*
2. 1 Corinthians 1:30 *But by His doing you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption*
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*
4. Galatians 3:14 ***in Christ Jesus** the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*
5. Philippians 1:1 *Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints **in Christ Jesus** who are in Philippi*
6. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead **in Christ** will rise first.*

### III. Two Promised Births

a. John, the forerunner of the Messiah

1. Malachi 4:5-6 *Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. 6 He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.*
2. Luke 1:17 *It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

b. Jesus, the Messiah

#### v39-45

*Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 And 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."*

1. Elizabeth confessed Jesus is Lord before He was born!

2. Romans 10:9-13 *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."*

- a. Some of you wrote down a moment ago, “no,” indicating that you are not in Christ.
- b. In the power of the Spirit we can confess Jesus as Lord right now today
- c. GOSPEL
- d. You can confess Jesus as Lord and we want to invite you to do that today.

#### **IV. One song of Praise                    v46-56**

In the power of the Spirit we should confess Jesus is Lord from here to the ends of the earth.

1. Psalm 67 *God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us-- Selah. 2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah. 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. 7 God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.*

2. And Mary begins the chorus of praise in v46-56

*46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, 47 And 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. 50 “AND 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. 53 “HE 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, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.” 56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.*

- a. Her song will culminate in Revelation 7 when people from every nation tongue and tribe sing their song of praise to the Lamb of God before the throne of God!
- b. Some of you know God is calling you to play a larger role in seeing that happen among the least reached peoples.

Two Angelic visits, two miraculous events, two promised births produce one mighty song of praise! Will you bow with me and pray as our instrumentalist come to play softly?