

Evening Sermon 12/2/18 –
"The Leaping Pre-Born Prophet" Luke 1:39-45

I. The context of these verses –

1. The angel has just informed Mary she is pregnant with God's Son – Luke 1:28-35
2. He also let her know that her older relative Elizabeth was pregnant in her old age – Luke 1:36-37
3. It is because of these things Mary travels to see Elizabeth –

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, (Luke 1:39 NKJ)

- A. She traveled with speed - with haste
- B. I imagine she traveled with "joy" – Luke 1:44

II. The greeting and the LEAP –

⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:40-41 NKJ)

Mary's greeting is presented here as the proximate cause of John the Baptist's leaping in Elizabeth's womb –

Note what happens in response to Mary's voice:

1. the babe leaped in her womb - :41
2. and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. - :41

III. Elizabeth's Spirit enabled explanation of the LEAP –

and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "But why is this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. (Luke 1:41 B – 44 NKJ)

1. Elizabeth's speech was a result of her being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - A. She spoke with Spirit empowered energy / loudness -⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice

B. She spoke Spirit empowered truth; truth is one of the names Christ Himself gives the Holy Spirit –

"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:17 NKJ)

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (John 15:26 NKJ)

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (John 16:13 NKJ) Because the Spirit and God's Word are true, we know Elizabeth is not mistaken in anything she says about why her son leapt in her womb!

2. The truth the Holy Spirit gave to Elizabeth

- A. Mary was blessed among women – 42
- B. This truth was consistent with what the Angel Gabriel had communicated to Mary –

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" (Luke 1:26-28 NKJ)

C. She was also knowing, by God's Spirit, that Mary's fruit, the Fruit of her womb, was her (Elizabeth's) Lord – and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "But why is this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

D. We also see in verse :43, that she was appropriately humbled by these things –

⁴³ "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

E. She also knew the truth about her son, John the Baptist, leaping in the womb, for joy –

⁴⁴ "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

... but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. (John 3:29 NKJ)

IV. How is it that a babe in a womb has a joyous leap? At a greeting? From a woman he just met? Because of a Babe in another womb?

1. This leap was also by the Holy Spirit –
2. The Holy Spirit was in John already, the Angel had told Zacharias (John's father) as much -

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. (Luke 1:13-15 NKJ)

3. What did the Holy Spirit do for John the Baptist, even while he was in his mother's womb?
 - A. He gave him supernatural knowledge. Somehow, though being a pre-born baby, six months along, he knew Jesus, this was not though might of mind, or extreme intelligence, how could he know what was going on in another womb?

This is how it always is with God's work, He is able to use weakness for His glory -

⁶ So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6 NKJ)

B. God is able to use young and old for His glory –
<To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.> O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! ² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. (Psalm 8:1-2 NKJ)

"Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:36-37 NKJ)

There is a sense, Zacharias and Elizabeth are like a New Testament Abraham and Sarah –

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as *many* as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. (Hebrews 11:11-12 NKJ)

C. *He gave Him saving knowledge of Christ, knowledge that is impossible for anyone to attain apart from God's Spirit –*

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:9-16 NKJ)

- *This is why it is important to teach young children*
- *This is why we don't count anyone unable to learn or understand, or even be used for God's glory – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

V. Elizabeth's application –

"Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." (Luke 1:45 NKJ)

1. *This definitely applies to Mary*
2. *Yet, isn't applicable to all of us? The things God tells us, shall they not be fulfilled?*

The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. ⁴⁵ Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass. (Joshua 21:44-45 NKJ)

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