

Luke 1:39-45 – Mary's visit to Elisabeth

What is the best news you ever heard? What did you do? Mary heard some of the best news anyone ever heard; she was told about the coming Saviour. She went to Elisabeth, as Gabriel had suggested, to share her joy. In God's kindness, the one who could understand her situation was a relative. Now we learn what happened.

1. Elisabeth's testimony about Jesus

This passage again shows us the truth about who Jesus is. Elisabeth called Mary a “mother”, and Jesus the “fruit of her womb”. Jesus is a true human being, with a real human body and soul. He had to be, in order to die in the place of human beings, to save us. Even at a few days since his conception, he was honoured. Elisabeth also called him “my Lord”. She said this without having seen him; whilst he was still tiny. The Holy Spirit revealed this to her. Jesus is the eternal God, worthy to be worshipped from the instant he came to earth. Is he also *your* Lord? Elisabeth was very humble. She was amazed that she should have such a privilege. Are you amazed? Do you think God owes you something? Or are you amazed that he could bring the good news of Jesus to you? Do you realise you are unworthy? God owes us nothing, and we owe him all.

2. Elisabeth and the Holy Spirit

Verse 41 tells us that Elisabeth was filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit *lives* in every true Christian. He comes to them when they are converted and washes them, making them new (Romans 8:9-10). But not all Christians are *filled* with the Spirit, or at all times. What happens when someone is filled? What does the Spirit do? Elisabeth shows us. She raised Jesus Christ (v42) and called him “My Lord”. The Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, who reveals Christ's glory and teaches us to love him. The mark of the Spirit is not noise, or miracles, and he does not glorify us or even himself – he glorifies Christ (John 16:13-15). In conversion, he opens our eyes to the reality of the glory of Jesus. True preaching lifts up Jesus. Elisabeth saw she was unworthy (v43), but rejoiced in Christ (v44). If that is what is happening in your life, then that is the work of the Spirit. If you are a stranger to these things, then you do not have God's Spirit.

3. Mary, Elisabeth and Jesus

Why did Mary go to see Elisabeth? She was looking for spiritual fellowship. Gabriel had told her that Elisabeth was also part of God's plan for the Messiah. She sought someone with the same heart. In the UK we say “birds of a feather, flock together”. Who are truly *your* people – the people of Jesus?

We do not worship Mary, because Mary was a sinner; her blessedness was on account of Christ; we worship Christ! She is to be admired because she was a woman of faith (v45). It is faith that brings every true blessing from God. True faith centres on Christ – not money, health or power. Faith opens the door to heaven for us. The most powerful and rich of men cannot get into heaven without faith. Elisabeth and Mary's testimony and faith was all towards Christ himself. Where is yours? There is no other way of salvation, but to trust in him.