

“Saying Yes to the Journey”

“Saying Yes to Your Will”

Adult Sunday School Class

December 16, 20018

“Yes to Your Will”

Objectives: At the end of the lesson students will:

- ☐ **Be able to identify God’s activity in the unexpected and perplexing events that have occurred in their life.**
- ☐ **To identify the acts of justice identified in Mary’s song of praise.**
- ☐ **To use Mary’s song of praise as an example of creating their personal song of praise to God.**

Background Information

- ❑ Luke is the author
- ❑ Herod is king of Judea
- ❑ Key Sites – Jerusalem, Nazareth, Galilee
- ❑ The nation of Israel was required to offer corporate prayer and sacrifice twice a day at around 9:00 am and 3:00 pm
- ❑ About the most important moment in Zacharias's life (offering sacrifice) and Mary's life(marriage)
- ❑ It had been over 500 years since Gabriel appeared to Daniel
- ❑ Luke like to use parallelism and God's acts of reversals in his text (rich vs poor, young vs. old)
- ❑ Luke is very interested in the ways that disadvantaged people of his day – the poor, the sick, and women responded to God.

Background

- **Sixth month – Gabriel visits Mary**
- **Mary – age 12-14** (the usual age for a girl's betrothal was between 12 and 12 and half). After the betrothal the bride would live with her family for a year before the formal transferal to the groom's home.
- **Reminder:** *The church should never make the mistake of patronizing its youth. The church must invest deeply in the spiritual nurture of its youth.*
- **Mary rushed 80-100 miles to the countryside of Judea to be with her relative Elizabeth. The journey could have taken 3-4 days**

Luke 1:37-38

“Nothing is impossible for God!”

Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant! Let it happen as you have said.” And the angel left her.

Mary

Like other great leaders of Israel, Jesus will be the son of a “barren woman” but this one is a virgin.

Barrenness is a sign that God has intervened in history to permit the birth of a child.

The Law for unwed mothers called for death – stoning by the men of the village.

Mary would have to bear the stigma of that condition.

This is the beginning of her pain and humiliation that will eventually lead to her son being condemned to death as a common criminal.

She is told that she is not alone. Elizabeth her relative is also pregnant.

Soul Sisters

Elizabeth

- ☐ Daughter of Aaron
- ☐ Older woman – possibly 80 years
- ☐ Righteous
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Barren
- ☐ Living in shame
- ☐ Filled with the Holy Spirit
- ☐ Part of the Divine plot to save the lost

Mary

- ☐ Lowly born
- ☐ Teenager between age of 12-14
- ☐ Engaged
- ☐ Virgin
- ☐ Overshadowed with the Holy Spirit
- ☐ Believed God
- ☐ Part of the Divine plot to save the lost

The Visit

Mary

Elizabeth

The Visit

- ❑ Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit
- ❑ Elizabeth does not judge Mary
- ❑ Elizabeth recognizes the work of God .
- ❑ Elizabeth praises Mary.
- ❑ Mary Praises God.
- ❑ Elizabeth declares Mary blessed because she has been chosen to be the Mother of the Messiah.
- ❑ Elizabeth declares Mary blessed because she “believed.”

Through Elizabeth, Luke makes it clear that Mary's acceptance in verse 38 was a great act of faith.

Mary's Song of Praise

- ☐ **Mary speaks of her own lowliness**
- ☐ **She speaks of what God has done for the lowly.**
- ☐ **Song is an example of God's reversals- the lowly are made high.**
- ☐ **He has brought down the high**
- ☐ **He has kept his covenant with Abraham**