

Two Christmas Couples

*Elizabeth, A Godly Woman Ready to Receive God's Blessings*

Luke 1:5-7, 39-45

**Does God really bless those who obey Him?**

**Dinah Kwao.** Missionary wife. Nurse. Faithful. Verge of launching a new ministry for orphans. JOHN dies suddenly of Malaria.

Just days after coming to Christ, you lose your job.

Or you commit to go the mission field, and find out that one of your children has a rare immune disease.

**Does God really bless those who obey Him?**

Zacharias and Elizabeth faced this question many times.

## **What Do We Know about Elizabeth?**

**We learn much from Luke 1:5-7**

**Elizabeth was an ordinary woman.**

Two ordinary couples.

Related to one another. Luke 1:36. Mary was Elizabeth's niece.

Not families of wealth

**Elizabeth. Her name means "God has promised" (Enhanced Strong's Concordance)**

**God wanted us to know Four Things about Elizabeth**

She came from a godly heritage. Luke 1:5 "a descendant of Aaron"

She was a godly woman. Luke 1:6 "both of them"

*Her godliness was before GOD, not just before men. 1 Samuel 16:7 **7But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

*"observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly" (1:6)*

**This was a common description of a godly person.**

*Abraham. (Genesis 26:5) "because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws."*

*After the Lord healed the waters of Mara... (Exodus 15:26) "'If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to **his commands** and keep all his **decrees**, I will not bring on you*

*any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.””*

*On the plains of Moab (end of wilderness) (Deut 4:40) "Keep his **decrees** and **commands**, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time."*

*Solomon - Ded of Temple. (1 Kings 8:61) "But your hearts must be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his **decrees** and **obey his commands**..”*

**She was childless. Luke 1:7. “BUT they had no children.” The BUT is in contrast to their godliness!**

**“Well along in years”**

We are waiting for our first grand child!

For ZACHARIAS and ELIZABETH, there would be no grandchildren. (Proverbs 17:6) *"Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."*

**Their friends** were now walking around showing off their **pictures of grandchildren.**

**Not so for Zacharias and Elizabeth.**

## **Elizabeth Trusted God even when her Heart was broken**

**The Principle: God cannot pour out his blessings on those who are impure.**

*(Malachi 3:10) "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*

*(Matthew 23:37) “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.”*

### **Lessons:**

**We do not determine the timing of God’s deliverance. Elizabeth waited years for a child. Now she had finally resigned herself that this was not God’s plan.**

**We do not determine the relative fairness of our circumstances. Elizabeth referred to “My disgrace” (Luke 1:25)**

We do not determine the manner in which God chooses to reward our faithfulness.  
Song of Moses. (Deuteronomy 32:4) *"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."*

(Isaiah 55:9) *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Sickness is not always related to sin. (John 9:3) *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."* So neither is healing a required response to our obedience!

### **Difficult tests:**

Illness

Singleness

Barrenness

Brokenness (a wayward child... a failed business, shattered dreams)

Loneliness

**Elizabeth Received God's Blessings, in God's Timing. Her FAITHFULNESS allowed God to BLESS HER in HIS WAY.**

**She strengthened Mary's faith. GABRIEL (Luke 1:36) *"Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month."***

**She was one of four people who knew of the coming of the Messiah!  
Luke 1:39-41**

**Mary knew that she Aunt Liz would have the faith to believe!**

**She had the first PRAISE SERVICE for JESUS inside her womb!  
1:43-44**

**She exalted God by praising the Plan of Salvation. (Mary's blessing was because of the child she was bearing, not because of MARY herself)**

**She spend three months praising God with the woman who would give birth to her Savior! Luke 1:56**

**She gave birth to a son!!! 1:57-58**

Kim and I are anticipating the birth of a grandchild!

Ultra sound has changed one of the mysteries of child birth - the mystery of anticipation!

Every family had its version of an “oracle” - an aunt or grandma who always seemed to predict whether it would be a boy or a girl.

Most couples today want to know the birth

It seemed that even 25 years ago, many more couples wanted to keep the mystery and declined knowing the birth of the child.

**She strengthened her husband Zachariah! Luke 1:59-60**

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Are you ready to receive God’s blessings?

Are you ready to trust him, no matter how difficult things may become?

Do you trust Him completely?

Have you accepted His timing?

Are you satisfied in Him, even if it seems that your prayers have not been answered?

TWO THINGS AWAIT YOU:

1 - you will make yourself a worthy recipient of his blessing.

2 - you will find joy in your trials, because you know that He is everything to you.