

Elisabeth, Jesus' Aunt

Introduction: There are some people in the Bible that God does not give us much information about, yet they make a huge impact on life, as we know it. Elizabeth was that kind of character. She had no children, as we find a Luke chapter 1 verse seven, yet God had great plans for her. She was to become the mother of the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist. She love the Lord and followed Him faithfully as He lead her. Her husband Zacharias was a priest of the course of Abia. Elisabeth, herself was one of the daughters of Aaron. Both Elisabeth and her husband Zacharias were of the Tribe of Levi. Both certainly were familiar with the Law of Moses and the Word of God. Both had follow God faithfully for an extended period of time, in fact, we find that Elizabeth had no children; but yet was up in years when we discover her in the Bible. Luke describes her in his book with some tremendous characteristics that would help each one of us in our every day lives. As we look at these characteristics may we remember that God uses anyone who is willing to serve Him. Elisabeth certainly proved through her life that it pays to follow God.

I. Elisabeth was Righteous (Luke 1:6)

The first description that Luke gives of Elizabeth is that she along with her husband were righteous before God. Righteous simply means following the rules. The next phrase in verse six says, "Walking in all the Commandments and ordinance of the Lord, blameless," this statement refers to the fact that she and her husband lived by God's Laws and Rules no matter what. The Bible specifically comments on the fact that both Elisabeth and her husband followed God's Laws. This happens when someone views those Laws as important and worthy to follow. What a tremendous testimony to have to do what God's commanded you to do.

II. Elisabeth was Blameless (Luke 1:6)

The term "blameless" in this passage means free from fault or defect. This is not saying that Elisabeth and her husband were perfect. It is saying that they lived their lives in such a way that those around them, those who knew them the best could not see areas in their lives that would allow them to be accused of not following God. No one around them could find a flaw in their attempt to obey God's Laws. Maybe this is why God chose this fine woman to be the mother of the forerunner of Jesus.

III. Elisabeth was Barren (Luke 1:7)

The Bible says that Elizabeth was barren. In the Middle Eastern culture women were taught that they were being punished if they were unable to have children. Elizabeth was in such a case. She, certainly through her younger years, watched her friends and her and her family members have children which was highly sought after, yet she had none. Heartbroken and distraught she and Zacharias certainly had many conversations in regard to this. In fact, we see Zachariah said even prayed for a child as the angel mentioned in Luke 1:13 and yet they had not been able to have one as of yet. As age had dictated, both were beyond the normal time of child bearing years. Elisabeth and Zacharias had to believe the answer for his prayer of a child was an emphatic "no". Frustrated and heartbroken they remained consistent in following God's Laws. She continued in obeying and living in harmony with her husband. Elisabeth was tremendous example of patience and long-suffering. She simply obeyed God even though she don't understand all the circumstances surrounding her life.

IV. Elizabeth obeyed (Luke 1:23)

The Bible clearly tells us that Elisabeth was obedient. She obeyed, as the Bible says, the commandments that God had written. She followed them faithfully with her husband. They chose to obey God and follow Him. She followed her husband even when the realization of barrenness had plagued her and her husband. She, unlike some, chose to stay faithful to her husband. Some women in their distraught and frustrated condition fail to follow their husband because they feel either inadequate as a wife or often times they blame the husband for their lack of fertility. This woman did no such thing. She loved her husband and remain faithful to him, even though, both were concerned, heartbroken and distraught over the fact that they could not have children. They remained faithful and simply obeyed all that God had for them. She obeyed even the angel that brought the news that she would be having a baby. When the time came for her child to be named she vocalized that his name should be John, although all the women around her tried to convince her otherwise. Naming him after his father was the custom but she refused. The angel had told her his name would be John(Luke 1:13). Elisabeth named her son even without the input of her husband initially. She stuck to God's plan and named him what God said his name should be. When given parchment and asked what the child's name should be, Zacharias, also obedient, called the child's name John.

V. Elizabeth Praised (Luke 1:41-45)

It's kind of interesting when Elizabeth was visited by her cousin, Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Bible tells us in verse 41 of Luke chapter 1 that, "the babe leaped in her womb". Elizabeth, the Bible says, was filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke out a result. She spoke out with a loud voice and praised, not Mary, but her child. She noted that Mary would be blessed or happy and certainly Mary was, but yet she also explained the greatness of God for choosing her to be a part of His Great Plan of redemption for all mankind. What a tremendous spirit must have rested on this lady. She love the Lord and loved His plan so much that she could think of nothing more to do than to rejoice in the saving plan that God had set forth in their lives.

Conclusion: It is often amazing as we look into God's Word to see that God uses regular people to accomplish His great work. His plan could not go forth if it were not for regular people giving themselves to Him and His Commandments and allowing Him to direct them in their lives. Elizabeth is such a person. She yielded herself to God, allowed Him to lead her, guide her and use her any way He saw fit. Though she would have preferred to be used in the younger years, as far as, reproducing children; God saw fit to have her wait because He had a certain plan for her, a special plan, a plan that would change mankind forever. We never know what God might have for us. We never know God's plan. For we only see a small segment of his plan, yet He sees the whole picture. If we will yield ourselves to Him as Elizabeth did, then allow Him to control us, guide us and direct us through obedience to His Commands that are written and through yielding to His Plan as it develops in our lives. May we all allow God to use us as Elisabeth did!