

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How would you characterize Zacharias and Elizabeth?
2. How does unbelief enter into a person?
3. Do people tend to see the bad before the good?
4. What can we do about our own individual “unbeliefs”?

SUMMARY:

John the Baptist was truly a great servant of God, as all Christians and even Christ testified, but let us consider the greatness of his parents. Their task was not as glorious as that of their son, yet they were happy to do their part in God’s plan, no matter where men placed the honor. This is true greatness.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

October 12, 2003

Fourth Quarter

JOHN THE BAPTIST’S BIRTH PROMISED

LESSON TEXT: Luke 1:5-25

LESSON SETTING: In the temple in Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 6 B.C.

- I. THE GODLY HERITAGE.** Luke 1:5-7
 - A. Elisabeth and Zacharias Righteous (vs. 5-6)
 - B. Elisabeth and Zacharias Childless (vs. 7)
- II. AN ANGELIC APPEARANCE.** Luke 1:8-12
 - A. Zacharias Doing God’s Work (vs. 8-10)
 - B. Gabriel Appears (vs. 11-12)
- III. A PROMISE AND PROPHECY.** Luke 1:13-17
 - A. Child Promised (vs. 13)
 - B. Child Shall Be Great (vs. 14-17)
- IV. A SUPERNATURAL SIGN.** Luke 1:18-25
 - A. Zacharias Doubts (vs. 18-20)
 - B. Zacharias Becomes Dumb (vs. 19-22)
 - C. Elisabeth Conceive (vs. 23-25)

GOLDEN TEXT: FOR HE SHALL BE GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, . . .

Luke 1:15

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 1:39-56

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

THEME: Christ the Son of Man

TOPIC: MARY'S VISIT TO ELISABETH

INTRODUCTION:

Mary was humbled, but filled with joy, to know that God had chosen her to become the mother of Christ. She realized that God was her Savior, and recognized her low estate as a handmaiden of the Lord. She realized what a blessing this was for her as a human being. Howbeit, while Christ is the Son of God, it was God's plan that he should be the Son of man.

In every individual the characteristics that are like his father's are inherited from his father and those like his mother's are inherited from his mother. Likewise, Christ is God because He is the Son of God and is "of like compassions as we," because He is the Son of man. So Mary was not so much the mother of God, but the mother of the man, Jesus Christ.

A total commitment to God should be our goal.

CENTRAL TRUTH: A total commitment to God should be our goal.

GOLDEN TEXT: AND MARY SAID, BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD; BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD. AND THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER.

Luke 1:38

Mary's life is a wonderful example of a life dedicated to God - her instant obedience to God's calling through His messenger. As Christians, we should all inspect our innermost desires and motives. Are our lives up to the standards that the Lord expects of us? Are we ready and willing to sacrifice our time, finances and our energy for the cause of Jesus Christ?

Mary had such humility that she disregarded herself and her self-interest. God will put down the proud and exalt them of low degree. As we walk this pathway of life, let us look to and follow the life that Mary left us - a life of dedication, purity and humility.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 13 - 19

- M. Hannah's Prayer. 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- T. A Virgin Conceives. Isaiah 7:1-16
- W. Holy Ghost Conceived. Matthew 1:18-25
- T. Herod's Deceit. Matthew 2:1-10
- F. Reproach Removed. Luke 1:20-25
- S. Savior Promised. Luke 1:26-38
- S. *Mary's Obedience. Luke 1:39-56