

A Divine Interruption

Luke 1:38-45

Sermon Outline

A. An Abrupt Change of Plans (vs. 38-40):

1. Mary said - This is one of the greatest responses in the Bible. E.g., Ruth and Isaiah.
2. Bond slave - She is a slave-girl for God (an act of full submission sometimes to the point of death) committed to the authority and power of God (Lord). She knew there would be difficult days ahead; she could be divorced (Matthew 1:19; Joseph considered it), suffer death (Deut. 22:23), disgrace among people in the community (a small community 1,500 – 2000), rejected by her parents and without a skill, live destitute the remainder of her life. This is also a period when medical care was inadequate.
3. According to your word - All-powerful word or command of God.
4. Blessed - The presence of God indwelling her (this could be an acknowledgement that she is pregnant).
5. Now at this time Mary arose - Mary took it upon herself to get up after Gabriel spoke to her and immediately go to Elizabeth.
6. Went; Their way; go - Mary proceeded to Elizabeth knowing it was a considerable distance for her to travel.
 - a) The journey was about 80–100 miles from Nazareth and would take about 3–4 days. Mary's haste (σπουδή*) reflects her obedience to the angelic message.^{1[1]}
7. Hurry; Earnestness - Mary was determined to visit Elizabeth.
8. Entered the house of Zacharias - Mary did not appear to knock. She seemed so intent on seeing Elizabeth that she came directly into the house in search of Elizabeth.
9. Greeted; Acclaim - By greeting Elizabeth, it is possible that Mary called her name recognizing her or Mary came to her, embraced her, and kissed her. It signifies someone being happy to see another person and to talk to them in a welcoming manner.

B. Plans Confirmed (vs. 41-43):

^[1] Marshall, I. H. (1978). [The Gospel of Luke: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (p. 80). Exeter: Paternoster Press.

1. It came to pass when Elizabeth heard - At the moment Mary called out to Elizabeth she gained Elizabeth's attention. Elizabeth clearly understood that it was Mary and John the Baptist leaped in her womb.
2. Leaped - Elizabeth's baby (John the Baptist), rapidly moved his legs in excitement, an expression of joy at the sound of Mary's voice.
3. Filled - The Holy Spirit took control of Elizabeth.
4. Holy Spirit - The divine Holy Spirit has the full ability of God.
5. Holy Spirit - After 400 hundred years of silence, the Holy Spirit began to speak again.
6. Cry out with a loud voice - Elizabeth uncharacteristically shouted very loud, while empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit.
7. Believed - She accepted what the angel said as true and trustworthy.
8. Blessed - Elizabeth's boisterous greeting to Mary was to praise her for having a cherished relationship with God. This seemed to be an indication that Mary was already pregnant.
9. Blessed - Elizabeth's boisterous greeting was done to let her know her pregnancy was a gift from God, one that would bring prosperity and happiness.
10. Lord - Elizabeth loudly announces that Mary's womb embraces the One who has all authority and power that is focused on establishing a relationship with mankind.
11. Lord - The movement of the Holy Spirit to speak through Elizabeth was to announce that Mary is now pregnant with Christ.
12. Would come to me - Elizabeth is amazed that of all the people in the world, God chose Mary to visit her.
13. Elizabeth marveled at the grace that allowed her a role in God's great plan. She knew God owed her nothing; but she also knew that God had mercifully given her much.^{2[2]}

C. Surrendered and Blessed! (vs. 44-45):

1. Sound of your voice - Elizabeth heard Mary's voice out of nowhere and her complete attention was directed toward Mary.
2. Greeting - Mary came in and called Elizabeth's name which led John the Baptist to respond in Elizabeth's womb.

^{2[2]} Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). [*Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary*](#) (p. 1250). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

3. Leaped - John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb rapidly moved his legs with excitement, an expression of joy at the sound of Mary's voice.
4. Joy - The active movement of John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb was representative of intense joy, or extreme gladness.
5. Blessed - The word blessed means the person is fully satisfied because the kingdom of God rests in them. It is implied that under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognizes that Mary has the promised Messiah within her.
6. Who believe - Mary has this blessing because she has an unreserved committed trust in the Lord.
7. Who believe - Mary is blessed because God knows she will remain confident in His ability to complete what He promises to do through her.
8. Fulfillment - Mary totally consecrated herself and remain surrendered to complete the task ahead.
9. Fulfillment - Mary was totally surrendered to make sure that everything was completed perfectly just the way Gabriel had explained.
10. What had been spoken to her - Mary understood everything Gabriel said and kept it in her heart, so that she could complete the words that were spoken to her by Gabriel.
11. By the Lord - By the Lord means the Lord speaking through Gabriel.