

Respond With Joy

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Preparation Begins with Eager Presence

"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth." (v39-40)

"A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.'" (John 3:22-28)

Presence Produces Joyous Praise

"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry. 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'" (v41-42)

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior'" (v46-47)

"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore, this joy of mine is now complete." (John 3:29)

Praise Fuels a Hopeful Perspective

"... for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me" (v48-49)

"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30)