A Heart Prepared

Day Three – Mary Visits Elizabeth.

The cultural differences between Mary's time and today are astounding. In Mary's day, a young girl found pregnant outside the bonds of marriage faced severe consequences. That is simply not true today. In Mary's case, Scripture tells us in Luke 1:39-45 that Mary and her parents chose for her to leave her home and stay with relatives named Zechariah and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also with child at that time. The child she carried, conceived under remarkable conditions, would become known as John the Baptist. An angel of the Lord, Gabriel, visited Zechariah and told him that he and Elizabeth would conceive a child, even though they were both advanced in age. We may be surprised by such events if we forget that the Lord moves in His own time and in His own way when fulfilling prophecies.

The first to recognize that Mary was carrying the Savior of the World was the baby Elizabeth carried in her womb. The unborn John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb when Mary encountered Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–45). The unborn child knew He was in the presence of Jesus, even though both were yet to be born. The takeaway is to remember what Christmas is truly about. We must show the world that Jesus, the Savior of the World, is the reason for the season. We live in a heavily commercialized Christmas season. Events such as the Living Nativity at Grace Lutheran Pocatello are the exception, not the standard. Too many choose not to hold worship services on Christmas Day, even though it should be a time to rejoice. It is almost as if worshiping the birth of the Savior is an inconvenience. As with the unborn John the Baptist at his first encounter with Jesus, encountering Jesus on His birthday is a reason to leap for joy!

Leaning on Jesus
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