



## Elizabeth's Song of Joyful Blessing (Beatitude)

### Key idea:

Those who delight in the supremacy of Jesus will believe the Word of God and receive the joy of God's deepest, richest blessing.

### Key text:

Luke 1:39-45

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

### Key points:

1. Elizabeth's song delights in the supremacy of Jesus.
2. Elizabeth's song pronounces the joy of blessing that comes from recognizing God's work in our lives.
3. Elizabeth's song teaches that true blessing comes from believing and acting on God's Word.
4. Advent is a season to renew our focus and intensify our delight in Jesus' supremacy.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the cultural context of Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth enhance your appreciation of this biblical account?
2. How does Elizabeth's response to Mary's visit demonstrate humility and recognition of Jesus' supremacy? How can we cultivate a similar attitude in our own lives?

3. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is "the Lord" as Elizabeth recognized? How should this impact our daily lives?
4. The sermon mentions that when we focus on Jesus, envy disappears. Can you share an experience where focusing on Christ helped you overcome feelings of jealousy or comparison?
5. How does the contrast between Zechariah's and Mary's responses to God's promises challenge you in your faith journey?
6. In what ways might you be treating Jesus as a "part in your play" rather than recognizing your role in His story? How can we shift our perspective?
7. Bret encouraged us to "doubt our doubts" and believe God's Word. What areas of your life do you find it challenging to trust God's promises? How can we support each other in growing our faith?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Commit to a daily Advent devotional practice, using the provided materials or another resource that helps you focus on Jesus during this season.
2. Identify one area in your life where you struggle to trust God's promises. Share with the group and pray for each other in these areas.
3. Choose a classic Christmas hymn or carol that focuses on the incarnation. Meditate on its lyrics throughout the week and discuss how it impacts your perspective on Christ's coming.
4. Practice recognizing and vocally appreciating how God is working in the lives of others around you, following Elizabeth's example of blessing.
5. Reflect on your own "impossible" situations where you need to trust God. Write down these concerns and pray over them daily, asking for faith like Mary's.