

Title: A Portrait of a Godly Mother: Elizabeth

Passage: Luke 1

Summary:

Portrait of a Godly Woman: Elizabeth

1. A godly woman pursues God's righteousness (v.6)
2. A godly woman is humble and wise (v.24-25)
3. A godly woman is hospitable. (v.39-40)
4. A godly woman rejoices with and for other women's blessings without jealousy. (v.42-43)
5. A godly woman encourages other women. (v.42-45)
6. A godly woman submits and honors her husband. (v.56-66)
7. A godly woman recognizes Jesus as the Lord of her life. (v.43)

Key Truths:

- Fix your eyes on God despite whatever adversities may come, whether financial or personal.
- Christ is more interested in your eternity than the things one can receive in this world.
- Discontent is life's burglar: it robs every other experience of its God's given joy. Someone who is discontent is always operating at a loss.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Are you right with God? What's your explanation?
- How is Elizabeth a model for us? Which quality have you seen emulated by those around you? Which quality will you pray to grow in by God's grace in the near future?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

"The fundamental mission of motherhood is to nurture, protect and instruct children, and to create a home environment that enables them to learn and grow in the knowledge of God. And instill in them a desire to make God known, equipping them with the skills they need to have to be able to live lives that are meaningful and impactful in the society around them."

- Quote by Sally Clarkson, *The Mission of Motherhood: Touching Your Child's Heart for Eternity*
 - Reflection of what the Bible says about motherhood.

To be feminine entails also to be a nurturer of your home, whether you are a married or a single woman.

"A single woman may mother many children as a spiritual mother, similar to Amy Carmichael who was a missionary in India. Amy offered her singleness, transformed for the good of far more children than a natural mother may produce. All is received and made holy by the One to whom it is offered."

- Elisabeth Elliot
- Single and married women can experience Biblical femininity alike by the way they relate and mentor to those younger.

Passage: Luke 1

Luke 1:5-17

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and

burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared...

Luke 1:24-25

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people...

Luke 1:39-45

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. 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! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord...

Luke 1:56-66

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who

heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

EXPOSITION

Overview

Portrait of a Godly Woman: Elizabeth

1. A godly woman pursues God's righteousness (v.6)
2. A godly woman is humble and wise (v.24-25)
3. A godly woman is hospitable. (v.39-40)
4. A godly woman rejoices with and for other women's blessings without jealousy. (v.42-43)
5. A godly woman encourages other women. (v.42-45)
6. A godly woman submits and honors her husband. (v.56-66)
7. A godly woman recognizes Jesus as the Lord of her life. (v.43)

I. Pursues God's Righteousness (v.6)

Luke 1:6

And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

- both positionally and practically:

A. Positional righteousness:

- Positionally: Elizabeth was righteous because of her faith in God.

Galatians 2:16

yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

- We cannot be right with God by merely obeying the Law.

- It is only by faith in Jesus Christ.

Question: Are you right with God?

- If your answer begins with "I have..."
 - This is wrong as no one could ever do enough to be right before God.
- Only through the righteousness of Jesus could we be right before God.

B. Practical righteousness:

walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

- Practically: she wanted to do the right things of God in her heart and actions. Both from her intentions as well as her actions.

1 John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

She obeyed God despite her adversities.

- Financial
 - She was a Levite during the time when the Jews were not generous towards the Temple.
- Personal (Barren)
 - She did not have any children.
 - Culturally, people would think that a woman who could not bear children as cursed by God.
 - Luke 1:25: "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

God may sometimes bring times of suffering to bring you closer to God.

- Christ is more interested in your eternity than the things one can receive in this world.

2. A godly woman is humble and wise (v.24-25)

Luke 1:24-25

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

- "she kept her herself hidden"
 - Elizabeth did not make parade or show-off herself.
- "Thus the Lord has done for me"
 - Elizabeth gave all the credit to God.
 - The fact is only God can create life.

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease."

- John the Baptist said this in view of Jesus.
 - Attitude was modeled by his mother, Elizabeth.

3. A godly woman is hospitable. (v.39-40)

Luke 1:39-40, 56

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...And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

- Elizabeth was hospitable as she welcome and hosted Mary for three months.
- Likewise, we should welcome others among us and those we come across.
 - Both those we know as well as strangers.

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**4. A godly woman rejoices with and for other women's blessings without jealousy.
(v.42-43)**

Luke 1:42-43

and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

- Elizabeth recognized that everything she has is out of God's grace and mercy.
- She had the right perspective: we do not deserve anything.
- God is a good God. He knows what His child needs.

Contrast: Discontent

- Discontent and dissatisfaction is borne from wanting more than Jesus or different than Him.
 - Sin: natural inclinations to be dissatisfied with Jesus alone.
- Discontent is life's burglar: it robs every other experience of its God's given joy.
 - Someone who is discontent is always operating at a loss.

5. A godly woman encourages other women. (v.42-45)

Luke 1:42-45

and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should

come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

- Elizabeth encouraged Mary on what God has done and is doing in their lives.
- Likewise, we should always encourage others. Point to what Jesus is doing in your life.
 - Contrast: a downer or complainer.

6. A godly woman submits and honors her husband. (v.56-66)

Luke 1:59-66

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

- Elizabeth respected and honored her husband Zechariah. She knew what was to be done with naming of John.
- Likewise, our heart's attitude is to honor and respect the husband. The heart default is to recognize and respect her husband.
 - Doesn't mean there are points of disagreement and points of iron-sharpening-iron conversation but be mindful of time and place and tone.

7. A godly woman recognizes Jesus as the Lord of her life. (v.43)

Luke 1:43

And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

- Elizabeth knew of many Old Testament prophecies that pointed to the Messiah. She recognized the reality of Jesus.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- "my Lord"
 - Elizabeth recognized Jesus as her Lord.
 - Likewise: is Jesus Lord of YOUR life?

Acts 16:31

And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

- Turn to Jesus as Lord while you still have time.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.