

THE TEA PARTY AT ELIZABETH'S HOUSE

Text: Luke 1:39-41

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.

Introduction: Have you ever attended a 'tea party?' Can I briefly describe what goes on at a tea party? Ladies, please don't get upset with me.

There are crumpets [some kind sweet cake] and of course tea. But most importantly there are a lot of wonderful things [not really gossip] that will be discussed. And every one will want to know when we can get together again.

Let's look at this surprise 'tea party' that happens at Elizabeth's house.

I. Who Has Been Invited?

A. First, we have the lady of the house Elizabeth.

1. Her husband is a priest.

Luke 1:5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

2. They are childless.

Luke 1:6 Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

3. But this day she is pregnant with a child.

Luke 1:23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home.

24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

B. Then there is a young girl named Mary.

1. She is a virgin not having known a man.

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

2. She has some very good news to tell.

Luke 1:30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

B. These two women are relatives.

Luke 1:36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.

C. This 'tea party' had an interesting host call for this meeting.

1. An angel of the Lord.

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

3. Gabriel is an archangel who stands in the presence of the Lord.

Luke 1:19a “The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God...”

4. Both women have been affected by the ministry of this archangel Gabriel.

D. Note with me.

1. Both women are pregnant.
2. Both women have encountered an experience with an angel of the Lord.

E. So girls what are you going to be talking about?

F. Let’s listen in on their conversation.

II. Your Pregnant!

- A. “Mary, how did you find out I was pregnant?”
“I was told by the angel Gabriel.”

Luke 1:36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.

- B. “Tell me how you got pregnant after all these years?” “It was like this!”

Luke 1:8 It so happened that as Zachariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment,

9 it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense.

10 The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of the incense offering.

11 Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the altar of incense.

12 Zachariah was paralyzed in fear.

13 But the angel reassured him, "Don't fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John.

C. "My husband, Zachariah did not believe the angel. And things really got interesting."

Luke 1:18 Zachariah said to the angel, "Do you expect me to believe this? I'm an old man and my wife is an old woman."

19 But the angel said, "I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news.

20 But because you won't believe me, you'll be unable to say a word until the day of your son's birth. Every word I've spoken to you will come true on time — God's time."

D. "Well, Elizabeth, tell me what the angel said about your son to be." "He told Zachariah:"

Luke 1:14 You're going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you — many will delight in his birth.

15 He'll achieve great stature with God. "He'll drink neither wine nor beer. He'll be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment he leaves his mother's womb.

16 He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God.

17 He will herald God's arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics — he'll get the people ready for God."

E. "Well, what was your response to the words of the angel?"

Luke 1:25 "So, this is how God acts to remedy my unfortunate condition!" she said.

III. I'm Pregnant!

A. "Elizabeth, I'm pregnant too!

Luke 1:39 Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, 40 straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth.

B. "Tell me what happened? You and Joseph haven't married yet have you?"

"Well, it was like this.

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth 27 to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary.

28 Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her: Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.

C. "I was all shook up!"

Luke 1:29 She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that.

D. "What did he say?"

Luke 1:30 But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you:

31 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

D. "I'm going to have a boy! A very special son!"

Luke 1:32 He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; 33 He will rule Jacob's house forever — no end, ever, to his kingdom."

E. "Did the angel tell you how this would happen?"

Luke 1:34 Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

35 The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.

F. "Wow! "But why did he even mention to you that I was pregnant?"

Luke 1:36 "And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months' pregnant!

"I guess to help me believe in my pregnancy!"

G. "Gabriel also told me something wonderful."

Luke 1:37 Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

Conclusion: "Well, pastor that is a wonderful story. I've heard all that stuff before. We thought you had something exciting to tell us."

"I do!" It is found in the words spoken by Elizabeth to Mary and the words of Elizabeth herself.

Luke 1:45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Luke 1:41 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?

Wait a minute! No swollen stomach. No physical evidence of pregnancy! No sonar grams! No special rendezvous! Nothing! Yet both women are talking like it's a done deal!

Could this be what the writer of Hebrews meant when he wrote his definition of faith?

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Oh, by the way!

Luke 1:57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

Luke 2:6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.