



Crazy Faith: Stories from THEN and NOW

Sermon Outline

Luke 1

Elizabeth-Crazy Faith Receives a Miracle

Introduction:

Elizabeth, a respected woman, is married to Zechariah who is a member of the priesthood in Jerusalem. She was old and had given up having a child. Childlessness was considered a disgrace. But she becomes pregnant and then Mary of Nazareth comes to visit her. Zechariah goes to the temple, chosen to enter the sanctuary and offer incense as a part of the daily worship. Out of the 8000 priests at the time, God had chosen Zechariah.

WHAT WILL CRAZY FAITH ASK YOU TO DO?

1-Crazy Faith will ask you to let God SET YOU APART.

>Zechariah was chosen to be one of 8000 that entered the sanctuary that day. He also was knew people would think he was crazy about his wife having a baby. This crazy faith would get him attention, and not necessarily, attention that he wanted.

2-Crazy Faith will ask you to let God SUPPLY THE SUPPORT.

>Elizabeth is given the support of Mary, and Mary has the support of Elizabeth. The reality for Mary is that she as a young girl was pregnant and not married. The fiance', Joseph, knew he was not the father, yet the bride price had been paid. This could have resulted in Mary's killing. Perhaps this is why she fled to Judea.

3-Crazy Faith will ask you to let God SILENCE THE CROWD.

>Zechariah was silenced by the angel, because he did not believe his wife could become pregnant. And yet when they were trying to come up with a name for the baby, all the relatives thought he would be named Zechariah. Elizabeth stepped up to say no. The family wanted to argue and they turned to Zechariah. He asked for a writing tablet and

wrote the words, "His name is John." Immediately, they were silenced and immediately, Zechariah could hear and speak again.

CONCLUSION: Following after God in crazy faith is not easy, but the reward is awesome! Elizabeth's son became JOHN THE BAPTIST who announced the coming of the Lord Jesus.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- >Are you willing to be set apart to follow God? Even if people call you crazy?
- >Are you trusting in God's support to help you through or your own?
- >Are you fearful about the response of the crowd? Will you trust that God can silence them if need be?

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