

The Blessed: Luke 39-45.

Mary heard from Gabriel that her relative Elizabeth was pregnant. So she went the considerable distance (somewhere between 80 and 100 miles) from the region of Galilee to the **hill country** of Judea (Hebron) for a visit (for company, testimony and to congratulate).

“We have here an interview between the two happy mothers, Elisabeth and Mary” Their husbands received insight about what was happening, one believed, the other didn’t.

Mary probably understood that not many people could understand her experience with Gabriel and miraculous conception. If anyone could understand, it might be Elizabeth, who also had a miracle baby on the way.

***Jeremiah 33:15-16** - ‘In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

When Elizabeth saw Mary, filled with the Holy Spirit (joy), her unborn child – John the Baptist – **leaped**, because he was filled with **joy**.

Blessed - is she who believed.

Mary’s faith played an active role in receiving the promise. God promises should never make us passive; they should prompt us to seize them by faith. Elizabeth wanted to encourage Mary’s faith, so she declared “**there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.**”

Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand.

Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe. Augustine.

God our Father has made all things depend on faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing.

Martin Luther.

Psalm 119:2 - *Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!*

Habakkuk 2:4 - *“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.*

John 20:27-29 - *Then He said to **Thomas**, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And **Thomas** answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “**Thomas**, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

Galatians 3:5-9 - *Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*