

Advent: Adore – Elizabeth and John

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Luke 1:26-45

December 8, 2024

Worship is ‘an all of me response to all of who God is’

It involves every part of us.

*Do you tend to think of worship as ‘an all of you’ response?

*Are there areas (mind, emotions, bodies, wills, etc.) that get neglected in your worshipping?

We worship when we trust and believe in what has been promised

Read and discuss Luke 1:126-38 (NIV)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, 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. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” ³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.” ³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

*What do you notice about the way Mary reacted to the angel’s visit in contrast to Zechariah?

*How does Mary demonstrate worship in this passage? Have you experienced a time when you choose worship in the midst of seeming impossibility?

There is something that happens in our worship that overflows to others

Read and discuss Luke 1:39-45 (NIV)

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 the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

*What can we learn about worship from the infant John and Elizabeth in this passage?

*When was a time when someone’s overflow of worship impacted you? When was a time that worship took you by surprise?

Worship is about our good and gracious loving God who delights in being with us

It doesn’t need to feel or look a certain way to be true.

*How do we miss out when we have certain expectations of worship? Of the Christmas season?

*What ‘all of you’ worship response is the Spirit calling you to?