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### Luke's Good News

#### Chapter 1, verses 39-56

#### What kind of people does God involve in his story?

Mary must have been eager to consult the one person who might add to her understanding. Mary picked herself up and hurried to the hill country, to a town in Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb jumped, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she cried out, "You are celebrated among women! And the fruit of your womb is celebrated! But why me? Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? Look! When the sound of your greeting entered my ears, the baby in my womb jumped for joy! Happy is she who believed that what the Lord said would be fulfilled!"

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord! My spirit rejoices in my Savior God! He looked over the humiliation of his servant. And look! Now all generations will consider me happy! The Power has done something big for me! No one is so good as he! His mercy goes on and on, generation after generation, to those whose humble attention is on him. He flexed his awesome muscle and shattered those whose hearts were arrogant. He smashed dynasties from their thrones, and he raised the humble. The starving he filled with good; the rich he turned away empty-handed. He sustained his servant Israel. He remembered the mercy he described to our fathers, mercy to Abraham and his offspring for eternity."

Both Elizabeth and Mary were vividly conscious that God was working these amazing changes in their lives. They knew they were a part of something God had been doing from ancient times, and that they were experiencing the kind of God he is. They were not at the mercy of a heartless universe; they were loved by their Creator! These events were not random and out of control; they were lovingly planned and carried out by God. This was consistent with the kindness that God had displayed to his people historically.

This God called Abraham and Sarah out of a mighty civilization. He gave them a miracle son. He revealed himself to Jacob and turned him into a new nation. He rescued that nation out of slavery under a brutal Egyptian ruler. He led them to a home. He chose a forgotten shepherd named David and made him the nation's great king. He promised the struggling people that a king was coming whose kingdom would be better than any the world has seen.

It was just like God to choose people such as Elizabeth and Mary to introduce the eternal King to the hurting world. He never has been limited by the status of the people he calls.

At that time in the world, perhaps only Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary knew that the eternal king was making his entrance into the human race. It would be

interesting to know what else Elizabeth and Mary spoke to each other in those days.  
Mary stayed with her for three months then went home.