

Xmas Heroes Part 2 by Ps Larry Elliott

Elizabeth

Our holiday theme is "Heroes"

- We know the Bible teaches us about the only Super-Hero, Jesus.
- The Bible is His-Story
- They estimate there are now 6 billion copies of the Bible in print

📖 *BUT EVERYONE of us can become a HERO, because supernatural things happen when we look at Jesus.*

👉 So Today we are looking at our second Xmas Hero, Elizabeth.

👉 Last week we looked at her husband Zacharias

Faith / Favour / Fulfilment

Faith

Luke 1:23-25 NKJV "So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

👉 The foundation of our FAITH is the GOSPEL; if we leave that we begin to FOLLOW CHRIST in our own strength.

👉 Faith is **partnering** with God towards His desired outcome.

(Zacharias & Lizzie had normal marital relations upon his return and so she conceived)
(No miraculous conception.)

😊 This shows us that FAITH IS NOT JUST VITAL BUT IT'S VALUABLE (it's a precious commodity)

1 Peter 1:7 NKJV "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,"

- ✅ Faith is so incredible it has no boundaries of operation, no foreign currency limitation. (**It will work anywhere**) if you have it today (you do) YOU ARE RICH.
- ✅ Faith is not of US (it's not our faith) it's born out of God's grace working in your heart.
- ✅ Faith is not about you, it's about Jesus' finished work IN you.
- ✅ Faith is simply "**confidence**" that God is who He says and can do what He says.



BENEFITS OF FAITH:

A. Creates hope & stability in our lives

👉 because you don't need to see the whole picture first (no angel appeared to Elizabeth)

👉 in other words you don't need outward evidence to have confidence the evidence is inward (spiritual) it's based on your relationship with Jesus.

B. Will Address our Barrenness

C. Re-Fire our vision (the compound effect)

HOW, the key lies in this verse:

She hid herself five months: Why did Elizabeth go away?

- Not to hide her pregnancy; she was gone for the first five months, the time when she would be least noticed as pregnant.
- According to Jewish religion women would withdraw themselves because of ceremonial laws so that they would not be deemed unclean.
- She went away to spend time with the Lord, and to meditate on the destiny of the child within her. (For praise and thanksgiving (we know JESUS did this, Paul did it.)

👉 Our faith can and should be on an UPWARD growth curve.....

1. FAITH (confidence) grows through the Hearing the Word. (Case sensitive Word and Fresh Word for your life and situation) *use Golf as an example.*
2. FAITH also grows through experience.
3. Faith grows by being activated (Faith must be ACTIVATED) that happens through understanding.
4. Faith grows through times of testing during difficulties (Faith will be TESTED).

Favour

Luke 1:41-44 NKJV and it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, (**why am I so favoured**), that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

👉 FAVOR is amazing, when you recognize it, please notice it Elizabeth recognizes it.

👉 Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, already knew about Mary's extraordinary unborn baby:

📖 For FAVOR to WORK for me I must first recognize it!



? Are you recognizing your FAVOR, or focused on what you don't have?

📖 19h27 on Monday evening 18th December '17;

Show / remind my people that they already have my favour:

1. Born again
2. My promises (exceeding great & precious promises)
3. The Guarantee of My Spirit

2 Peter 1:2 NKJV "Grace (undeserved favour) and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,"

😊 You cannot multiply what you don't first have.

😊 Favour doesn't multiply by us labouring and toiling to earn it (then it's not favour but wages)

😊 It comes as our knowledge of JESUS increases, as we believe (have confidence) that when JESUS said on the cross "It Is Finished" it actually was.

😊 That we have actually been made Righteous and brought into right standing with God.

😊 We don't have to struggle for FAVOUR, just start to declare God's Word in FAITH.

SAY: I have GOD'S FAVOUR in my life today.

GOD'S FAVOUR surrounds me like a shield.

GOD'S FAVOUR is working in every area of my LIFE, bringing me unexpected increase, promotion and success.

Luke 1:36-37 NKJV Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

✅ This is what GOD said to Mary about ELIZABETH

✅ Because of JESUS WE can Live OUR LIVES as if everything is a SETUP for our success.

✅ SAY: It's a Divine SET-UP

Faith & Favour MUST produce FULFILLMENT.

Fulfilment

We cannot feel FULFILLED WITHOUT FULFILLMENT.

Luke 1:45 NKJV Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfilment of those things which were told her from the Lord."



God's Word is sure!

Elisheba or Elizabeth, which means "the oath of God."

 The Divine promises have various degrees of accomplishment
Gary on Monday when feeling sick 🤢 and ready to acceptably not fulfil the plan
2 Corinthians 8:10 NKJV (Ref Only)

FINISH Strong

 This is why Elizabeth is a hero, She believed the unbelievable.

God invites us today to believe the unbelievable, He invites us to believe that through JESUS we have received forgiveness, favour, and fulfilment.

Luke 1:57-58 NKJV Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. When her neighbours and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her."

Use your favour to make a difference:

Noah found favour in the sight of God.

OFFERING

Galatians 6:7-10 NKJV "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

