

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

## SERMON OUTLINE

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### “Elizabeth The Mother Of John The Baptist - A Everyday Hero”

#### Luke 1:5-25

Our Scripture passage is a familiar story and one that fits with Mother’s Day. A woman who wasn’t supposed to be a mother becomes a mother. It is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible but a story that is over shadowed by the Christmas story and gets lost.

Before the angel appeared to Mary and Joseph he had already appeared in Jerusalem to a man named Zechariah to announce the birth of a boy who would be named John and who would be a cousin to Jesus.

Let’s begin in **verse 5**. Zechariah and Elizabeth lived when wicked Herod was on the throne. Herod the Great, was a tyrant. He had nine (some say ten) wives, one of whom he had executed for no apparent reason. But no matter how dark the day, God always has His devoted and obedient people.

**Verse 6** tells us about their character. In short, they walked with God and took their faith seriously. As we look at Elizabeth’s life, I want to draw out six practical truths that will **help us persevere** in our **prayers** and deal with **disappointment**.

The first truth we learn is:

#### I. LIFE IS FILLED WITH DISAPPOINTMENTS V-7

In that culture barrenness was considered to be a sign of God’s disfavor.

The second truth we learn is:

#### II. PRAY FOR GOD’S PROVISION

Look at **verse 13**. The little verb phrase **“prayer is heard”** can be literally translated **“was heard and is being heard.”** Let’s be reminded of **Ephesians 3:20**

The third lesson for us to learn is:

#### III. TRUST GOD’S TIMING

One of the hardest things to do when we pray is to wait for God’s answers. I’m intrigued by God’s sense of timing in **Luke 1**.

When God used Gabriel to speak to Zechariah, He was breaking 400 years of silence (**Mal.4:5-6**). God answers prayer according to His timing and His delays are not the same thing as His denials. Look at **Isaiah 55:8-9**. **God often waits until things are humanly impossible and then He does what only He can do.**

The fourth truth for us to learn is:

#### IV. LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Check out **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

All her life, God had prepared her, not only to be John’s mother, but to be the example of maturity and faithfulness that Mary needed for the enormous task ahead of her (**V-43**). Elizabeth was well into her senior years and Mary just an unwed teenager, yet she was a huge encouragement to Mary.

The fifth truth we learn from Elizabeth is:

#### V. ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF BELIEVING

Every member of Elizabeth’s family was impacted by the announcement of the Lord’s salvation. Would you notice that Elizabeth called Jesus **“my Lord”** even before He was born in **verse 43**?

**May I suggest that Elizabeth seems to have had much deeper spiritual and scriptural insight than Zechariah did?** She speaks of much more than she would have learned from what the angel said to her husband.

The last lesson we learn is to:

#### VI. SPEAK UP WHEN TIME’S RIGHT

Can you imagine what it must have been like for Elizabeth when she was pregnant? We know from **verse 24** that she was in seclusion for five months. Everyone thought he would be named after Zechariah, but Elizabeth spoke up and said, **“No! He is to be called John!”** (V-60). Then Zachariah was also very emphatic **vs. 62-64**. The name **“John”** means **“Grace of God”**.

As we read the accounts of John’s preaching it is evident that the foundation of his faith was well laid. It was **Abraham Lincoln** who said, **“All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.”** We can only assume that John the Baptist would have said the same thing.

If there had of been a Mother’s Day 2000 years ago, it would have been one of Elizabeth’s favorite days. Today, we celebrate mothers not because mothers are better people or better women than those who have never been mothers but because each of us owes something to our mothers, even if it is only life.