

Sermon Series: TRANSFORMATION
Sermon Title: UNEXPLAINABLE JOY
Text: Luke 1:39-56

Discussion Questions:

- What Christmas gift have you received (besides Jesus) that has brought you the most joy?
- What aspects of the Christmas season do you find most joyful?
- What about the Christmas season threatens to over shadow or steal your joy?
- Tell of a time when you experienced “unexplainable joy” even though the circumstances of life wouldn’t normally be considered joyful.

Examination:

- Read **Luke 1:39-45**
 - Why do you think Mary hurried off to visit Elizabeth after receiving news from the Angel? What do you think she hoped to get out of the visit? Do you think she went anywhere else before visiting Elizabeth? (*Verses 39-40*)
 - What do you believe Mary was thinking as she took the 3-4 day journey? (*Verses 39-40*)
 - How did Elizabeth know that Mary was pregnant? Do you think Mary had told anyone about her visit from the Angel? (*Verses 41-42, 44*)
 - What is significant about Elizabeth’s baby leaping for joy at the sound of Mary’s greeting? Do you believe this is the fulfillment of what the Angel shared with Zechariah in Luke 1:15b? How will this baby (John the Baptist) prepare the way for Jesus later in life?
 - How does Elizabeth express joy in this passage? Give your best impression of Elizabeth’s greeting in verse 42 to the group.
 - Why does Elizabeth call Mary “Blessed are you among women”? What does this mean? How will the child inside of Mary be blessed? (*verse 42*)
 - How does Elizabeth exhibit humility in this passage? What is significant about what she says? (*Verse 43*)
 - How does Mary exhibit that she “believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her?” How does this contrast with the way Zechariah responded in verse 18? (*Verse 45*)
- Read **Luke 1:46-56**
 - How does Mary identify her position in relation to God? What is significant about how she views herself and how she views God? How does this view influence how she lives life?
 - How does Mary testify to God’s power?
 - How does Mary testify to God’s holiness?
 - How does Mary testify to God’s mercy?

- Compare and contrast the similarities and differences of Mary's song and Hannah's song found in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.
- In this passage, Mary is praising God for the things He has done in the past. How will Jesus accomplish these things through His life and death?
- How are we blessed as a result of Mary humbly following God and allowing her life to be shared with others?
- There are differing opinions on whether or not Mary was still with Elizabeth when John the Baptist was born. Do you think she left before or after John was born? What are some reasons she may have left before? Why might she have left before the birth? What kind of reception do you think Mary would receive from friends and family when she returns home now 3 months pregnant? (*Verse 56*)
- Joy is a choice. Do you agree with this statement?
 - Why or why not?

Application:

- How is God calling you to humbly believe and follow Him?
- How will you glorify God in the midst of your current circumstances whether they are good or bad?
- Finally, who do you need to reach out to and share the Joy of Christ with?