

Luke 1:36-45

Isn't this a weird question? I want to look at this story and just ask some questions. You are going to find that I am not going to give a lot of answers in this series at Luke. This might make some of you uncomfortable. That is not my hope. My hope is that you will experience what I have. This book, this here book is a collection of writings. Writings inspired by God. Not necessarily a factual history book, let alone a scientific book. When I say not necessarily factual, I mean some writers would appear to contradict themselves. But, when you look deeper, when you really dig in, God, through these writings, reveals Himself. Not just to me, but to you! AND, when that happens, your relationship with Him grows.

Mark 12:30

That is my hope. My hope that God will reveal Himself to you, you will grow, your faith will grow, your relationship with the Lord will deepen and your love for the Lord will grow. Ok, let's go!

Luke might or might not have been one of the 12 disciples. But, all would agree he was a companion of Paul. And, according to Paul, he was a physician. By looking at his writing style, his vocabulary, and so on, theologians believe he was highly educated. Also, theologians all agree he wrote Acts and that Luke and Acts really go together. Luke wrote in a historical way, and as he states in the beginning, he is giving his take on the events; meaning, he has already read what Mark and Matthew wrote. It is believed he wrote this book between 60 and 80 AD.

Let's first back up to John the Baptist.

Now, let's bring in Mary. Mary probably had traveling companions or went with a group to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary's family probably arranged this. Did they know Elizabeth was pregnant? Did they know Mary was pregnant?

In this culture, the eldest has priority, importance, inheritance, etc. In this case, Elizabeth is definitely the eldest. The first very interesting thing, this idea of leapt would trigger the story of Rebekah in Genesis 25:22, leaping is an expression of joy. Here - watch me!

Ok, John the Baptist, as we know from Isaiah, is a prophet. And, we know, he would speak about a greater one coming! (Now, we know this is Jesus.) The Jews are looking for a Messiah. They are waiting.... Maybe not waiting so patiently. As John the Baptist preaches about this, he is really signifying that 'this time' is coming to an end, an end to the waiting. John the Baptist is also the elder, but he is not the greater.

Elizabeth is older than Mary, but not the greater.

John is older than Jesus, but not the greater.

Who else does this sound like? Esau and Jacob!

Wow!! This is RADICAL and against current culture and tradition! See how God was setting this up from the very beginning? Isn't that amazing?

Now, here is where my question comes. If Elizabeth was Mary's cousin, when her son, John, was born, wouldn't she tell him about Mary? Wouldn't she pass down this story? Don't you find this interesting? Hold on, Jamelle, how do we know she didn't?

When Jesus approaches John years later, John didn't say, "HEY LOOK! IT'S MY COUSIN - JESUS!" I just find this utterly interesting!

From Mary's standpoint, did she tell Jesus about his conception? Did she tell Jesus about angels? Did she tell Jesus - hey, just so you know, you are the Savior? Did Mary understand this? Did she never go visit Elizabeth again? Did she not tell Jesus about what happened back in the day? Did Jesus know He was Jesus?

We know that when Jesus was a teenager, he stayed back in the temple when his parents started heading home and he said "didn't you think I would be in my Fathers house?" (Luke 2:41-49) Is that when He intuitively started His ministry? Did John and his family not have to go to the temple for Passover?

When Jesus was going to the river where John was baptizing, did He know that John was his cousin? Did He know then He was JESUS?

Here is why I love asking questions - God had all of this figured out. He put all of the people in place. He was working way before these particular humans knew He was working. There is also no dispute that John the Baptist is who he was. There is no dispute that the man Jesus walked the earth and was crucified.

Now what, Jamelle. I think we sometimes think we have to prove things to others about our faith. We have to know all of the answers. There is no history book, no book in general, that has all of the answers and information in them. No book. People that could write, might have wrote things down. Some people might have realized, years later, they need to write down what they have experienced. We don't need to have all of the answers and proof. Why? Because as it was happening, people didn't have all of the answers and proof. We are just living life! Like we are today! Do you know what hindsight is? Do you look back and go, "OH wow! Look how God worked this out! I didn't know such and such." This book is about people. Some people knew one another. Some people crossed other people's paths. They probably didn't see what was happening, spiritually, right before their eyes. Or, if they possibly did, they kept those secrets in their hearts... just like we do.

Isn't that beautiful?