



Female BFFs (Biblical Friends Forever)

Mary & Elizabeth – “Prenatal Partners!”

Read Luke 1

June 2018

Have you ever had a situation or challenge so big or rare that you felt there was no one else on the planet going through what you were? I imagine that’s what Mary and Elizabeth experienced when they were both told (from an angel, no doubt) that they were going to have miracle babies. It is important to mention that – aside from this supernatural encounter – they had very little in common, and probably would not have otherwise come together.



Let’s start with Elizabeth. Scripture tells us that she’s “well advanced in years” when her husband (who by the way is unable to talk during her entire pregnancy) relays the message he received from the angel Gabriel. In verse 25 we learn that she’s thrilled and wants to share the news because she says “The Lord has taken away my disgrace among the people”. However, the next thing we learn about her is that she’s kept in seclusion for her first two trimesters (with no one to talk to). Boy, what a lonely time that must have been.

Fast forward six months to young Mary, who receives similar news; but her situation is not as accommodating as Elizabeth’s. She is an engaged virgin whose life suddenly got very complicated. Unlike her older cousin whose shame was lifted by this new, her life can unravel. Matthew 1:9 tells us that Joseph had in his mind to divorce her quietly to keep from exposing her to public disgrace.

I don’t think it was a coincidence that the angel told her that Elizabeth was six months pregnant (angels

don’t gossip). From here we can learn a lot about their relationship (more from Elizabeth than Mary):

- First, as soon as she accepted the news, Mary “got ready and hurried” (vs. 39) to see Elizabeth. This verse gives us a clue that she felt very comfortable sharing about her unplanned pregnancy with her cousin. (Question: Do people feel comfortable coming to you when they are in difficult or awkward situations?)
- When Elizabeth (who hadn’t spoken to anyone in months) sees Mary she welcomes her with blessing – not judgment (vs. 42). (Question: Can you find the good in circumstances that appear socially unacceptable?)
- Elizabeth did not tell Mary what was prophesied about how great her own child was going to be, but humbly focused on Mary’s (vs. 43-44). (Question: Are you a good listener – even if you too have something important to share?)
- Elizabeth bolstered Mary’s faith, assuring her that she wasn’t alone (vs. 45). Remember: Elizabeth was more mature and had six months to get use to her pregnancy. Surprisingly, the first time Mary uttered a word was when she sang praises to GOD (vs.46-55).
- Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, but we don’t see anyone celebrating Elizabeth until after she gave birth (vs. 57-58). It appears she spent the entire time encouraging Mary.

ACTION ITEM: *Either share your experience or find someone to encourage regarding:*

ABUSE	ILLNESS	FINANCIAL
DIVORCE	FORECLOSURE	LOSS
ABORTION	RAPE	OTHER