

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I want you to grab your Bible, if you will at this time and let us look together at the **Book of St. Luke**. Let us turn to **Chapter 1**. Some of you perhaps have not been too accustomed to using your Bible. For that reason, you will hear the announcer mention the little book, *Food for Faith*. It is a book which really gets you to be excited in seeing how God speaks to you through the Word. So, at the end of the program, this will be mentioned. Be sure and send in for this.

We are going to turn in **St. Luke** today to the wonderful story that starts in **verse 5** about Zacharias and Elisabeth. These are people we would never have heard about if it had not been for Jesus. They were wonderful people, but who would have known of them if it was not that their life - through their very son - was amazingly entwined with the wonderful Person, Jesus, the One who is described as **the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world?**

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. Both of these had come from a generation of wonderful people set aside for the

service of God in the temple. They were from the tribe of Levi and they had been brought together in marriage.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

How do you feel today? Do you feel anything but blameless? Do you feel that your life is in a terrible mess? Do you feel you cannot cope with the pressures of your marriage? The encouraging thing is there is One who unites our heart in marriage and His Name is the Lord Jesus. But remember, He is not asking that we be sinless; only He is sinless. But as we walk according to how He shows us in His Word, as we walk in total dependence upon Him to meet each day's crises, we will find there is a righteousness of Christ Himself about our lives and we will find He will direct our steps.

We go on and we read of this wonderful couple that they had no child. Elisabeth was barren and they were both well-stricken in years. For Elisabeth to be barren in her day, there was a great stigma. It was the heart-hope of every virgin that one day, they might be the mother of the Messiah. As they read the Word and saw the Scriptures all through the old Testament promising the great Messiah to come, it was, therefore, a great stigma for any woman to be barren. Some of you know that stigma. I was with a friend who had been thirteen years raised in Africa without a child. She knew that stigma. One day God

blessed her and she had a son. She has since had several children. But there is the stigma that we put on one another so easily, just because we sense they are not fitting in to what we feel should be happening in the life, according to walking with God. Let's be loving with one another and understand it is not an easy thing for a person to be found barren. That was the position of Elisabeth. But we go on and we read:

8 And it came to pass, that while Zacharias executed the priest's office before God in the course of his order,

9 According to the custom, his lot was to burn incense before the Lord. About that time, there were twenty thousand or so priests. Twice a year they were allowed to arrive and with their family cast lots as to who would do what duty. It was such a privilege to serve the Lord. Therefore, when the lot came that this servant of God, Zacharias, could bring before the incense table the incense which offered the prayers of the people, as he went there it was probably the one and only opportunity in his lifetime. You and I have an opportunity to come to that table of incense momentarily, as we share in our heart our love and our adoration of the Lord and at the same time lift up our prayers. We come to a God who answers prayers directly. And so, as we are looking at the one who came representing the people, as we have seen in our own hearts today, are we ready to realize that a new way has been opened for us through

Christ, who is our Intercessor? As for those terrible things that are on your heart, which you don't know who to tell about right now, just share with Jesus. Will you do it in this prayer? *Lord, You see me. You know me. Meet me where I am, please. And through Jesus Christ, answer my heart's desire.*

For Your glory. Amen.