

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Perhaps you listened yesterday and know that at that time, we were reading from **Luke, chapter 1**. It is an exciting story. It has to do with rather an old couple. Usually, old couples are not very interesting, unless you, too, happen to be an old couple! Therefore, I want to encourage you, although you see a lot of wrinkles and a lot of gray hair in older people, they have a heart that is beating and they have a heart for the Lord that perhaps you do not even understand. So today, perhaps you would encourage them with the Lord and encourage them with the things they remember as children. Perhaps you will even have the joy of sharing what Christ means to you, as you communicate with them.

So we are looking at this old couple, Zacharias and Elisabeth. They were no ordinary couple for we know that they were righteous; they walked before the Lord. You know, a holy life is really the root and the righteousness is the fruit. Here, this couple wanted above anything else that their lives should count for God. And so, the husband was ordained in the timing of God that he should go and present the incense, which was a great honor in the temple of the

Lord. As he was in there, all the crowd outside were waiting. They had their heart burdens; they had their prayers being offered; this was the time of the day of the incense, of the offering up of prayers, to a holy God. Suddenly, beside the very place where these prayers were being offered, there was this little waving of a holy piece of incense, which was nothing more than the beautiful perfumes going up on top of hot coals taken from the altar outside. These were being waved and there was this mist coming up and there was somebody else there!

11 . . . an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar . . .

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Wait a minute! Perhaps Zacharias was not praying that prayer right then. Perhaps he prayed it when they were a young couple or even when they got a little bit older, but was he really praying that prayer now? Has it ever occurred to you there has not been a prayer that you have given up in the Name of the Lord that He has not been aware of? It is rather like Daniel. You remember, he prayed and it was many days before the answer came through because as we were told,

there was a great battle in the heavenlies and the prayer was being resisted. So here we are, seeing one coming and being told his prayer was being answered. He was doing a service unto God and praying for all these others, offering up these prayers and his prayer was being answered. In the timing of God, God never wanted that prayer to be answered before. You see, there was not to be a son before this time because God knew this timing for this son that this aged wife was to have was perfect timing, because He had a reason. You see, this child was to be called **John** and that comes from *Johanna* and that word means *The Lord is gracious*. He was to have a name for this son. And so, he was also given a great promise:

14 **And thou shalt have joy and gladness.** . . . Oh, the joy of that little child! Oh, the joy of what a child can bring to a home! Already, they are being told that this child was to be full of joy, because they would . . . *have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth*. What a privilege to raise a child! I know you are worn down and everything is going against you. You think, “If only my husband was as spiritual as Zacharias!” But let me encourage you to see that the reason you have that child, that perfect, wonderful miracle that God delivered to your family, is that you would train that child in the things of God. Would you start to thank God for your children? Would you start to thank God every day and pray over them as they are in a very evil world? Would you start

to give them the Word of God every day before they go out? Don't let them go out the door without praying for them, please, and spend time during the day covering them in Jesus' Name.

And so, Lord, we praise You for what You have blessed us with, with the children that you have honored us with, that they will be raised for Your glory.

In Jesus ' Name. Amen.