

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

In Luke chapter 1 and verse 56, we read -

56 And Mary abode with her. . . *-now that's with Elisabeth and Zacharias.* She had been to visit, if you remember, and Elisabeth was six months pregnant when Mary arrived. It says after . . . **about three months, (Mary) returned to her own house.** Could you imagine these two godly women and the depths of Mary's spirituality as she met with Elisabeth? Right away, Elisabeth recognized that she (Mary) was the honored person who was bearing the Lord Jesus Christ within her womb, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Miracle of miracles; a virgin bringing forth Him who would be called Emmanuel! Can you imagine the time they had together? You think about Naomi and Ruth. You think about the care of the one who is older looking after the younger. I often think that it is such a blessing if a young lady has an older lady who is a godly friend. She might not be able to look as "with it" as the young friend, but she can share the things of Christ. She has learned much of what is out there and what a blessing if you are willing to share your life with somebody else in this way. Now we do not know much about Mary as to whether she had a mother. We don't know what the situation was — whether she was adopted. But we do know

that God allowed her to be those months with Elisabeth and I am quite sure, as they discussed the babies about to be born, that Mary learned and listened much to Elisabeth. Perhaps she was even there, just before departure, and saw the arrival of this little one called John. So, we are just going to pick up the story from here. I am sure these two must have laughed together many, many times like Sarah of old, and even sang songs of praise, like Hannah of old.

But here we read in **verse 57** —

**57** Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered and she brought forth a son. *Now this is the son that is going to be known in future as John the Baptist.*

**58** And her neighbors and her cousins heard how the Lord had shown great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. So there was a general joy and acceptance. Everybody was so excited and I am so glad for Elisabeth. But remember that there was the virgin Mary, carrying such burden within her heart, as she is misunderstood as to what had been conceived within her for it was not of man; it was pure and holy; it was of God. That which was conceived as the Word of God showed.

**59** And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. . . This is customary for the Jew, who, based on the covenant of promise, to take that child on the eighth day,

even if it is on a special holy day, and bring that child to be circumcised. This is because they were believing in the Seed; they were believing in the Messiah. They were saying, “Yes, we will conform and believe this.” As this child was brought for circumcision, as was the routine, they named the child after the father. . . **And they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.**

60 **And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.** She stood right out there and did not allow this of all these friendly people that were about her, her relatives and everybody else. Have you ever been pushed into a position, as a child of God, because everybody feels that is the right thing you should be doing? You need to get your instruction clearly from the Lord in the Word and to stand firm on those things that God tells you to do.

61 **And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred called by this name.**

62 **And they made signs to his father . . .** Now remember, he had not believed the Lord and, therefore, he was dumb. . . . **how he would have him called.**

63 **And he asked for a writing table, and he wrote, saying, His name is John . . .** What a wonderful couple; they stood together in what they were saying and believing from God. . . . **And they marveled all.** Everybody was amazed. You see, Zacharias made this great act

of obedience and faith. He was dumb because of lack of this, but at this moment -

64      **And his mouth was opened immediately and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.** Let me just ask you. Are you willing to stand firm on the Word of God in the things that God tells you to do? Are you willing to declare this is what the Lord has said and this is what I will do? If you stand in obedience and faith, you can praise God. This man's tongue was released, and we praise God for that great act of obedience and that declaration of who God would raise up to be the forerunner of His Son Jesus Christ.

*Let us right now tell the Lord we want to obey Him right now with all our heart in the things He shows through His Word and for His glory. And that we love Him and we want only His plan and purpose for our lives.*

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*