

Lesson Topic: Mother Elizabeth – A Distinctive Life of Holiness **Lesson Scriptures:** Luke 1:5-7, 41-45, 60

Lesson Commentary:

As we grow spiritually, we must involve careful, disciplined, thorough investigation and study of God's Word so we can understand how God wants us to live. We must "receive the teachings of His Word with all readiness of mind and search the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). Every believer should grow in grace and strive for sanctification, which is the purity we receive through the grace of God. A call to holiness leads to a life conducted in holiness. This begins at conversion and goes along life's roads, causing us to seek to become more Christlike. The biblical term for the process of being made holy is sanctification. God makes us holy as we trust in Him and walk with Him. To be holy is to pattern our lives after God's righteousness. His Word is the truth that brings sanctification (John 17:17). Sanctification – the process of being made holy, resulting in a changed lifestyle. Developing holiness is the process of

becoming like Christ. It is an ongoing, active process in our lives, requiring time, producing gradual change, through steps of faith, resulting in a changed life.

Like our sisters of yesteryear, we must walk righteously in all His commandments (Luke 1:6). We are in a continual educational program. The more we study and apply His teachings, the more we change. It is a life-long process. It takes time. It takes practice. It takes reviewing. It takes patience. It takes dedication. It takes concentration. It takes consecration.

As true believers the behavior of our old, sinful life is dead, motivating us to resist sin as we choose a path for our new life in Christ. Letting Christ live within us and reshape us changes our moral and ethical behavior. Through Him, we gain a new perspective – a biblical perspective, God's perspective – and develop the desire to seek Him, His Will, and His Way. The more

we observe – see, hear – His Word, His teachings, His directives, His ideas and thoughts about situations and conduct, the more we will identify with and begin to look like, act like our Lord. Christ by the Holy Spirit will give us power to live like Him. We know He is coming back and tomorrow is not promised to anyone. If we want to see Him in peace, we must prepare for His return. Living dead to sexual sins, impurities, lustful desires, and materialism. Like the diseased limb of a tree that must be cut before it destroys the tree, we must cut away the dead weight of sin. Make conscious, daily decisions to remove (to lay aside) anything that supports or feeds these desires. TV, movies, books, magazines, people, computer, phone, internet, etc. We must practice practical and moral choices in order to be done with the old and be committed to the teachings of Christ.

Lesson Spotlight:

Elizabeth and her husband Zachariah didn't just go through the motions of following God's laws as they committed their lives to the service of God at the temple. Their outward compliance was completed with their inward obedience. (God knew their hearts.) They were described as blameless and not among those described as hypocrites. (God knew their hearts.) Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost and great joy (Luke 1:41). She believed and rejoiced loudly. She was a praiser, who made God the focus of her praise.

Lesson Questions:

1. What characteristics and actions lend to a life of holiness?
2. From the story of John the Baptist, what do we learn about the set apart, distinctive, specific behavior reflected and holy characteristics of his mother?
3. What conduct in her life shows that she was committed to a life with unique differences?
4. Did she have everything a woman could ever want? Which verse speaks to the dilemma in her life?
5. Where does the power for a life of holiness come from?
6. What was she called to do?
7. How did she go against the flow?
8. Trusting God and abiding in His _____ produced a yielded, surrendered _____ life.

Match each woman with the description that fits her story (each woman matches at least 2 of these):

Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-7, 41-45, 57-61)	_____	_____	1. A warrior & worshipper	5. A sophisticated woman & servant
Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)	_____	_____	2. A listener & learner	6. A follower & woman of faith
Anna (Luke 2:36-38)	_____	_____	3. A sister & servant	7. One recommended & a supporter
Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)	_____	_____	4. A praiser & witness	8. One dedicated & decisive

Memory Verse Review

I Thessalonians 4:7	CHANGED	Romans 12:1, 2	DISCIPLINED
I Peter 1:13-16	CLEANSED	II Corinthians 7:1	SEEKING
Colossians 3:1	FOLLOWING	Hebrews 12:14	TRANSFORMED
Ephesians 2:22-24	CALLED		