

2 people

2 similar situations

2 different responses

Luke 1:5

Luke 1:5-17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

5 During the reign of King Herod the Great over Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah[[a](#)] who served in the temple as part of the priestly order of Abijah.[[b](#)] His wife, Elizabeth, was also from a family of priests, being a direct descendant of Aaron.

6 They were both lovers of God, living virtuously and following the commandments of the Lord fully.

7 But they were childless since Elizabeth was barren, and now they both were quite old.

Luke 1:5-17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

⁸⁻⁹ One day, while Zechariah's priestly order was on duty and he was serving as priest, it happened by the casting of lots (according to the custom of the priesthood) that the honor fell upon Zechariah to enter into the Holy Place^[c] and burn incense before the Lord.

¹⁰ A large crowd of worshipers had gathered to pray outside the temple at the hour when incense was being offered.

¹¹ All at once an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing just to the right of the altar of incense.^[d]

Luke 1:5-17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹² Zechariah was startled and overwhelmed with fear.

¹³ But the angel reassured him, saying, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God is showing grace to you.^[e] For I have come to tell you that your prayer^[f] for a child has been answered. Your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son and you are to name him John.

Luke 1:5-17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁴ His birth will bring you much joy and gladness. Many will rejoice because of him.

¹⁵ He will be one of the great ones in the sight of God. He will drink no wine or strong drink,^[g] but he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even while still in his mother's womb.

¹⁶ And he will persuade many in Israel to convert and turn back to the Lord their God.

¹⁷ He will go before the Lord as a forerunner, with the same power and anointing^[h] as Elijah the prophet. He will be instrumental in turning the hearts of the fathers in tenderness back to their children and the hearts of the disobedient back to the wisdom of their righteous fathers. And he will prepare a united people^[i] who are ready for the Lord's appearing."

Important points from the story of Zechariah

The angel Gabriel found him

He was startled and overwhelmed with fear

He was told he would have a son that would bring many to the Lord/ strong calling and mandate on his life

Luke 1:26-33 The Passion Translation (TPT)

26–27 During the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent from God’s presence to an unmarried girl[[a](#)] named Mary, living in Nazareth, a village in Galilee.[[b](#)] She was engaged[[c](#)] to a man named Joseph, a true descendant of King David.

28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Grace to you, young woman, for the Lord is with you[[d](#)] and so you are anointed with great favor.”

Luke 1:26-33 The Passion Translation (TPT)

²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled over the words of the angel and bewildered over what this may mean for her.

³⁰ But the angel reassured her, saying, "Do not yield to your fear, Mary, for the Lord has found delight in you and has chosen to surprise you with a wonderful gift.

³¹ You will become pregnant with a baby boy, and you are to name him Jesus.

Luke 1:26-33 The Passion Translation (TPT)

32 He will be supreme^[e] and will be known as the Son of the Highest. And the Lord God will enthrone him as King on his ancestor David's throne.

33 He will reign as King of Israel^[f] forever, and his reign will have no limit."

Important points from the story of Mary

The angel Gabriel found her

She was startled and overwhelmed with fear

She was told she would have a son that would have a strong calling and mandate on his life and be the Savior of the world

What obstacles did they face?

Zechariah: Old and barren

Mary: Virgin and engaged

How did they respond...?

Zechariah

Luke 1:18-25

Mary

Luke 1:34-38

What's your story?

What is God saying?

What are the obstacles?

How will you respond?

God's path is not obstacle free!

*Remember what Gabriel said to Mary...
'do not yield to your fear'.*

It will come...but don't yield.

Respond in faith this year... say 'yes' and be open to the things you don't understand or expect.

It's ok to ask questions, but don't let your lack of understanding rob you of enjoying the miracle that comes with saying 'yes' to God.

My prayer for 2019, is that we respond and say,

*"This is amazing!
As Your servant, I accept
whatever You have for me.*

*May everything you have told
me come to pass."*